



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## PRESS Release

### Local Teacher of the Year, Cindy Downey, Receives Accolades

Laramie County School District #2 teacher, Cindy Downey, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Downey, a teacher for 35 years, serves as special educator at Burns Elementary School.

“As a teacher of special education students,” says Downey, “I love all the different challenges my students bring. There are days when I am working to motivate a reluctant learner as well as calm down an autistic child who is over stimulated. I must unlock the secrets of their brains and find out the best way each child learns.”

Speaking about the teaching profession, Downey comments, “Educators must take each student right where they are in the learning process and move them forward. I believe that all students differ in their learning styles, motivation and background. Getting a quality education does not mean all students get the same education. Rather, all students get what they need.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Downey addresses this topic: “I believe that the teaching profession needs to be held accountable. However, the use of test results as a way to measure student achievement and hold teachers accountable is flawed. Our goal should be academic success for all students, not raised test scores.”

Downey, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education, says, “All the people that work with students day in and day out are the quiet heroes. No one will ever throw a parade in their honor or name a building after them, but they are heroes because of the difference they make in our students’ lives.”