

2009 HARTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

University of Vermont Teacher of the Year Awards

This year's recipient of the UVM Elementary Teacher of the Year award goes to *Milissa Hecsh* at the White River School. The UVM Secondary School Teacher of the Year award recipient is *Mike Stone* at the High School. Congratulations to both of you!

Hartford School District Employees of the Year

Dothan Brook School

Nichole Vielleux came to the Hartford Schools with experience teaching grades 1 through 6, and, having tossed the chalk and embracing the SmartBoard, settled here in fifth grade two years ago. She creates an atmosphere where students feel safe, valued and excited to learn. In the words of a colleague, "Nichole is a passionate, creative educator who always has her students' best interests in mind."

Nichole has stepped up to the DBS plate by supervising the work of the student store and school yearbook and promoted the use of new technologies through service on both the school and district technology committees. Her proficiency, coaching, and leadership in the world of technology, have been a boon for teachers and students alike. She is always upbeat and generous with her time and expertise. We are proud to have Nichole as the DBS employee of the year.

Hartford Memorial Middle School

John Mitchell "Mitch" grew up in Vermont and earned a BS in Early Childhood Education from Vermont College in 1983. He spent the next year subbing in Hartford and Lebanon before landing a permanent position at HMMS. John's prominent career at HMMS has been spent teaching mathematics, as our 504 Coordinator, and most recently teaching humanities. John has also committed many years of notable service to our athletic programs coaching baseball, high school hockey, and currently as our athletic director. John has done an exceptional job motivating and building rapport with his students and becoming a key role model to help many "at risk" students find success in school. He has a wonderful sense of humor, is a team player, hard worker, and an important member of our faculty.

Hartford High School

A graduate of Hartford High School, *Mike Stone* has been a member of HHS faculty since his graduation from Norwich University in 1981. In one of his letters

of recommendation, a referent wrote: "His determination, organization, and love of what he is doing should insure success." If ever the individual was right on the money, the gentleman who wrote that certainly was. He even went on to say that Mike "has a tremendous personality and is liked by all." I don't know if the same would hold true for each of us after 27 years, but in Mike's case that description from 1981 is as true now as it was then.

What the letter did not address, only because it lay in the future, was how successful Mike would be in working with students. His accomplishments as a football coach and his efforts to fund, establish, and operate a first class fitness center are praiseworthy and well-known, but it is his everyday positive interactions with students, particularly his players, that represents an aspect of Mike's career which is more below radar yet of inestimable worth. A sentence beginning "Coach Stone said..." is often the telling indication that the youthful speaker has been touched in some way by the boy's association with this special man.

If teaching is a profession wherein the practitioner touches lives forever, Mike has achieved this most desired and honorable goal on occasions too numerous to count. The fact that he stands here today as HHS's "Employee-of-the-Year" is testimony to the fact that his peers recognized and wished to honor the unique, worthy, and humble individual that is Mike Stone.

Hartford Area Career and Technology Center (HACTC)

Vicky Trombly teaches Business Technology and has taught at the HACTC for six years. She has 14 years of experience as a business education teacher. She has a Masters degree from Southern New Hampshire University. These are the qualities expressed by those voting for Vicky:

- Organized
- Collaborative
- Professional
- Student centered
- Willing to mentor new staff as well as assist veteran staff with technology applications
- Project Running Start participant
- Team player
- Supports FBLA and attends state conferences with her students
- Leadership Teacher participant
- Shares samples of her work in lesson plan design, rubric development and standards-based units of instruction
- Participates in a variety of cluster, center-wide and state level committees and collaborative teams.

Vicky represents the best of what the HACTC staff embodies that being dedicated and committed to providing the best educational experience for students attending the HACTC. She will represent us with PRIDE!!!

Ottaquechee School

Carolanne Majeski is the 2009 Ottaquechee School Employee of the Year. She has been a nurse at OQS for 3 years. Carolanne is both a skilled nurse and a talented educator. Her colleagues at OQS describe her as being extremely collaborative. When a teacher asks, she enthusiastically presents very clear lessons on health or science matter in the classroom. She also teaches students in the nurse's office and is a resource for students, staff and parents.

Staff members acknowledge Carolanne's interpersonal skills. She is clear, supportive and firm with parents. She follows through and is a passionate advocate for students. Carolanne educates and trains other staff members. Carolanne willingly does whatever is needed around the school. Her colleagues say, "Carolanne goes the extra mile." She organizes and provides extra clothing for students, does lunch duty, and was dunked in the tank (numerous times) during field day. She is an integral member of 504 teams and health plans. Carolanne Majeski's love for her work is evident to all around her. Students seek out her attention and aid. Lastly, Carolanne's upbeat personality and sense of humor bring joy to the Ottaquechee School. Congratulations.

White River School

Melissa Hecsh first worked as a special educator at the White River School and old Quechee Elementary School. For 15 years she has taught a first and second grade loop at WRS. She is a leader both at WRS and in the district, serving on district Math and Language Arts committees and on local CASL, 100th Year, and Interview Committees. Melissa is known for her exceptionally deep instructional repertoire and dedication to her students.

Tenney & Collaboratives

Laurie Hausler has worn many hats in Hartford School District from Special Educator at HMMS, to pre-school/EEE teacher, to her present position as Assistant Director for Special Education. Laurie maintains a positive attitude and commitment to kids at the forefront, no matter the age or ability of the student. Thank you Laurie!

District Services Employee of the Year

Byron Baribeau joined the Hartford School District in 1983 as a maintenance worker and is currently the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. During his 26 years with the District, Byron has consistently worked to make the learning

environment safe, clean, comfortable and in general a place that faculty, staff, students and the community are proud of. Byron is accessible to the District nearly 24 hours a day. His attitude is always positive - and he always finds something to laugh at with his colleagues throughout the District. Byron is nearly always "Out and About" in the District and his face is one of the most well known of any staff member.

There are numerous positive comments in Byron's personnel file from administrators and colleagues from around the District. Byron has been called "Superman!" and "MacGyver - because he can fix anything!" Byron sets high standards for himself and for his crew. He is efficient and quietly gets the job done.

When he is not holding the District together, there are a few things Byron enjoys. He is passionate about kayaks and canoes. (Ask him how many he has!) While it has been determined that he should stay clear of motorcycles, he has found a certain degree of comfort on a bicycle - just watch out for the spandex shorts!