

News

SCHOOL

Employees of the Month honored by MPS district

Employees from Brinton and Lindbergh elementary schools, and Poston and Smith junior high schools were honored for their outstanding work at the Oct. 27 at the Mesa Public Schools Governing Board.

October Employees of the Month were recognized by superintendency and school board members for their leadership, commitment and dedication to the students they serve.

Certified and classified employees are nominated for the award by co-workers and endorsed by administrators. Selected employees are honored during the second board meeting of the month from September to April. The board meetings are usually standing room only and full of energy as the employees accept their honors.

The October winners are:

- Kristi Busken, office specialist, Poston Junior High.
- Cathy Easterling, Title I specialist, Lindbergh Elementary.
- Shannon Steen, resource center aide, Brinton Elementary.
- Brett Zahner, business education teacher, Smith Junior High.

Employees of the Month receive certificates, school board tributes and \$400 for professional development workshops or conferences of their choice.

MCC honors alumni for contributions

The Mesa Community College Hall of Fame was held Nov. 5 honoring alumni, community members and MCC employees whose personal and professional accomplishments and positive contributions to the college and community set them apart.

The 2015 Honorees, by category, are:

Service Award

- Diana Occhiuzzi, volunteer for Mesa Community College, Arizona Department of Education and various community organizations; and a retired high school teacher.

Alumni Achievement

- Deborah Bateman, vice chairwoman of the board of directors for National Bank of Arizona.
- Hermenigilda (Hilda) Luna, director of nursing services at University of Arizona Cancer Center at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.
- Jennifer Duff, president and owner of Lobina Lures and Jef International Inc.

- Keith Ballard, director of music for Southwest Middle School; noted speaker, presenter and music educator.
- Terence Azbill, chief of the Office of Special Investigations for the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Excellence in Teaching Award

- Lyn Dutson, retired MCC faculty in theatre and speech.
- Duane Oakes, faculty director for the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

Coaches Award

- Tony Cirelli, baseball.

Athletes Award

- Robert Edward (Bob) Jacks, tennis; and Ronald Grant Powell, tennis.



Shannon Steen is honored as an October Employee of the Month by governing board member Jenny Richardson.

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