



NEWS RELEASE

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Cumberland County Schools Recognizes Consistent and Compassionate Collaborators

*CCS Operations Assistant Foreman and Committed Community member
honored by the district in surprise announcements*

Fayetteville, N.C. – On Friday, May 6, Cumberland County Schools (CCS) recognized two individuals, each with a long history of compassionate collaboration, for their consistent and selfless dedication to the success of CCS' students and schools.

Derrell Handberry, Sr., the assistant foreman of General Services in CCS Operations, received the May 2022 Extra Mile Award, and Johnny Wilson, the executive director of Fayetteville Urban Ministry, won the May 2022 Committed Community Support Award. Both individuals hold the district's six core values at heart — excellence, innovation, collaboration, equity, integrity and compassion.

The Extra Mile Award is designed to acknowledge employees who demonstrate a sustained high level of performance and inspire others to do their best. Handberry was nominated by CCS Social Work Coordinator Pamela Story. She noted how Handberry is an unsung hero in CCS for his spirit of collaboration, pride in appearance, and being someone who consistently 'Goes the Extra Mile.'

"Dependability, consistency and reliability are adjectives that describe Derrell Handberry, Sr.," said Story. "He does far more than his primary role. He assists in whatever way he can, sets the example of collaboration, always demonstrates politeness with a smile, and, this year, served as a role model and mentor to second and third graders at C. Wayne Collier."

Handberry has supported the Cumberland County Registrar of Deeds' annual School Supply Drive for more than 10 years. He also served on the CCS Reading Rocks Walk-a-thon Committee and ensured that the event went smoothly, even co-writing "The Reading Rocks" theme song for CCS.

Johnny Wilson of Fayetteville Urban Ministry received the Committed Community Support Award and was nominated by CCS English as a Second Language (ESL) Liaison Elisa Luna. This award is presented monthly to an individual or group for selflessly supporting the school system and helping students succeed. Wilson understands the needs of the district and enjoys giving back to the community.

“Johnny Wilson and his staff are always very generous, kind, supportive and helpful with our district families,” said Luna. “They have helped to get them housing, food, clothes and learning opportunities. Their service has resulted in parents being able to find jobs, provide for their families and overall have a better quality of life, helping our students to be successful in school.”

Wilson and Fayetteville Urban Ministry have established programs that address many community needs such as the youth mentorship program Find-a-Friend, the Adult Literacy Program, the Career Readiness Program, and Emergency Assistance offerings like a food pantry and a free clothing closet.

Any permanent full-time or part-time employee is eligible for the Extra Mile Award. Nominations can be submitted [here](#). To learn more about CCS’ Extra Mile Award, visit [the CCS Human Resources website](#).

The Committed Community Support Award includes mentors, businesses, community partners, parents and volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to assist schools and help students succeed. Nominations can be submitted [here](#).

A selection committee reviews nominations on a monthly basis and selects one winner for each award. Winners are recognized during the Cumberland County Board of Education’s regular monthly meetings from September through May. The next Extra Mile Award and Committed Community Support award winners will be selected to be recognized at the September 2022 Board of Education meeting.



Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Ruben Reyes presents the May 2022 Extra Mile Award to Derrell Handberry, Sr., at CCS Operations.



Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Ruben Reyes, Derrell Handberry, Sr., CCS Executive Director of Operations Donna Fields



Committed Community Support Award winner Johnny Wilson is surprised by Associate Superintendent of Communications and Community Engagement Dr. Lindsay Whitley at Fayetteville Urban Ministry in Fayetteville.



Committed Community Support Award winner Johnny Wilson, Wilson's Team, Associate Superintendent of Communications and Community Engagement Dr. Lindsay Whitley and CCS Social Work Coordinator Pamela Story pose for a photograph with the Committed Community Support Award.

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