



Aiken County Public School District

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For Immediate Release

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER NAMED AS THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS' FIRST YEAR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Shanon Delaughter and her 25-year-old daughter Ashton Johnson attended college and studied education together. Now the mother-daughter pair, both in their first year as elementary school teachers, share another experience--both were named their respective school's First Year Teacher of the Year.

Shanon dreamed of teaching kindergarten since she worked as a kindergarten aid 20 years ago. After raising two children, remarrying and staying home with baby number three, Shanon enrolled at USC-Aiken and studied education along with her daughter Ashton who attended Newberry College.

In school, the mother-daughter pair says they were able to help and inspire each other. "My mom was always there to remind me that I was capable of reaching my dreams," Ashton said. "She always taught me to never give up even when things were not easy."

Ashton and her mother Shanon have continued to encourage and support one another during their first year teaching. "It is great to have someone that is experiencing the same things to talk to and learn from," Ashton continued.

Ms. Shanon Delaughter, a kindergarten teacher at Byrd Elementary School, is happy her daughter's had such a successful first year as a first-grade teacher at Warrentville. "I'm really proud of her," she remarked. Ms. Ashton Johnson commented that her mother is such a wonderful leader and mentor to her. "I am so thankful to be able to share this experience with my mom."

Congratulations to Ms. Shanon Delaughter and Ms. Ashton Johnson and all new educators being honored as their school's First Year Teacher of the Year. The District will recognize 25 of its exceptional new educators and name the District's First Year Teacher of the Year at a reception being held at Jackson Middle School on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 3:45 p.m.

The 2014-2015 First Year Teachers of the Year from each of Aiken County's schools are:

Kathryn Cooney, Belvedere Elementary

Shanon Delaughter, Byrd Elementary

Carrie Lucas, Chukker Creek Elementary

Crystal Oerman, Clearwater Elementary

Anabeth Stripling, East Aiken School of the Arts

Kate Hough, Greendale Elementary

Amy Duvall, Mossy Creek Elementary

Katie Pope, North Aiken Elementary

Sarah Dutton, Oakwood Windsor Elementary

Angela Hamilton, Redcliffe Elementary

Keri Najmola, RSM Elementary

Ashton Johnson, Warrentonville Elementary

Tabatha Laudenslager, Aiken Middle School

Valarie Trapp, Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest

Matthew Kennamer, Kennedy Middle

Jazmine Cloud, LBC Middle

Jennifer Lee, Leavelle McCampbell Middle

Jamie Boyd, North Augusta Middle

Allison Bennett, Schofield Middle