

On May 14, the St. Mary's County Citizens' Advisory Committee for Special Education presented the 2014 "Rise Up" Award at the Board of Education meeting for St. Mary's County Public Schools. On hand to present the award was Elizabeth Snyder, Chair of CACSE. Assisting in the presentation was Melissa Charbonnet, SMCPSS Director of Special Education.

Five awards were presented this year, each of which recognizes individuals and groups in the school system and in the greater community who have gone above and beyond the normal call of duty to support our students with disabilities in their educational endeavors.

This year's awardees include:

- Misty Knott, fourth grade teacher at Piney Point Elementary School.
- Lisa Hixson, special education teacher at Town Creek Elementary School.
- The team of Katie Fry, special education teacher; Jessica Sohn, second grade teacher; and Cassandra Lindsey, applied behavioral analysis technician; at Evergreen Elementary School.
- The team of Carla Smith, first grade teacher; Tim Flynn, speech-language clinician; and Jeffrey DiRenzo, principal, at Mechanicsville Elementary School.
- The team of Mona Ash, special education teacher; Laura Cook, third grade teacher; Patty Scherer, SAIL teacher; Liz Nehrbass, teacher of the visually impaired; Sara Seemayer, teacher of the visually impaired/orientation and mobility specialist; Lewis Harden, adaptive PE teacher; Michele Brokans, paraeducator; Holly Peck, physical therapist; Heather Jarrett, physical therapy assistant; Sherilyn Holzer, occupational therapist; Colleen Singleton, speech-language clinician; Anna Burke, audiologist; Katie Tippett, nurse; Cindy Fletcher, IEP coordinator; and Wauchilue Adams, principal, at Green Holly Elementary School.

This is the second year that this award has been given. Recipients of the award received a lovely trophy, and all nominees received a certificate of recognition.

CACSE is taking this opportunity to recognize the dedicated individuals who work with our students and to thank them for the amazing jobs they do every day, including teachers, paraeducators, and therapists. Many thanks to this year's recipients and nominees, the parents who shared the wonderful stories of their work, and the Director and Staff of the SMCPSS Department of Special Education for their assistance.



2014 Recipients of the Rise Up Award



Green Holly Elementary School Recipients



Town Creek Elementary School Recipients



Piney Point Elementary School Recipients



Mechanicsville Elementary School Recipients