

## **ECSD NEWS RELEASE**

Kim Stefansson, ECSD Public Relations Coordinator

[kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us)

850 469-6219 (Office)

850-393-0539 (Cell)

May 1, 2018

### **ECSD Recognizes the 2018 Champions of the Arts** *Farewell Send Off for Retiring Fine Arts Teachers*

Each year the Escambia County School District's Fine Arts Department holds a reception to honor the teachers who are retiring from the classroom and the new group of Champions.

This year's retiring instructors are:

Patricia Overlade, Ensley Elementary School, 18 years of service

Larry Vosbury, Itinerant Fine Arts instructor, 27 years of service

Linda Willis, Pine Forest High School, 34 years of service

Deborah Young, Pine Forest High School, 31 years of service

The reception is also a chance for all ECSD Fine Arts instructors, students and supporters to nominate Champions for public recognition for their support of our arts programs. This was inspired by a famous quote from the late Rita Pierson, an educator well known for her TED Talk that included the words, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."

This year's ECSD Fine Arts Champions are people and businesses who know the power of connection and know that our teachers and their students sometimes need some extra support, assistance, finances, etc. so they can be the best teachers of the best students in the best programs they can be. The Champions don't ask for recognition but they were nominated for this honor and it is our pleasure to invite them to this event so that we might take a moment to say, Thank you.

#### **Community Members:**

Arnie Zinck

Donna Williams

Dottie Galloway

Suzie and George VanDyke

Tim Willis

Dan Fugate

Dan Signor

Nate Lyle

**Corporation or Businesses (representatives):**

Pensacola Museum of Art (Valerie Perkins)  
Apple Market(Brittany Apple)  
Pensacola Little Theater(Kathy Holsworth)  
Claudia's Mud Hut(Claudia and Wayne Hodges)  
Saenger Theater(Doug Lee)  
Express Oil Change 9 Mile Rd.(Sylvester Collins)  
Schmidt's Music and Repair(David Schmidt)  
Blues Angel Foundation(Jim and Nan DeStafney)  
Pensacola Opera(Cody Martin)  
WEAR Cram the Van with Art Supplies Initiative (Kathy Dunagan)

**Groups/Organizations (Not For Profit) and (Representatives):**

Beulah Elementary PTA  
Baily Middle School PTSA (Rebecca Gray)  
Delta Sigma Theta  
Pensacola Beach Elementary Poker Tournament Organizers (Rick Uzdevenes)

**Parents:**

Keely Mosley  
Holly Pitts  
Mark Downey  
Knauer Family  
Joseph and Margerie Smith

**School-Based Administrators:**

Latasha McGruder  
Robin Maloy  
Dr. David Schmittou  
Frank Murphy  
Joe Snyder

**Teachers:**

Kim Gandrup  
Gregory Sexton  
Linda Willis  
Lisa Jones  
Sally Miller  
Hytza Piatt  
Jennifer Godwin  
Patti Wheeler  
Russell Bertles  
Winston Foster  
Cathy Melton  
Angela Nicks  
Aurora Paul

Danny Street  
Christina Swift  
Gorden Wade  
Janie Walker  
Lawrence Young

*If you would like to watch the rest of Rita Pierson's TED Talk, go to [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) and search for her by name or by the title of her presentation, "Every kid needs a champion." It has been viewed over 8,296,000 times. [www.ted.com/talks/rita\\_pierson\\_every\\_kid\\_needs\\_a\\_champion](http://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion)*

**Photo information:** Deborah Young, Pine Forest High School, 31 years of service, Superintendent Malcolm Thomas and Linda Willis, Pine Forest High School, 34 years of service during the Fine Arts reception to honor retiring Fine Arts teachers and this year's Champions of the Arts, held May 1, 2018.

More photos will be available on the Facebook page, Escambia Schools Public Relations.

Like ECSD on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ecsdfl](http://www.facebook.com/ecsdfl)

Go to Escambia Schools Public Relations on [www.facebook.com/ecsd.public](http://www.facebook.com/ecsd.public) to see pictures of recent events OR select ECSD Public Relations as one of your Social Media news-feeds on the ECSD Families App.

Visit ECSD's web page at [www.escambiaschools.org](http://www.escambiaschools.org)  
ECSD prc 050118