

61ST

*Annual Retirement
& Recognition Dinner & Program*

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS



*Continuing the tradition of honoring
the service of our dedicated retirees
& award winners
May 15, 2025*

Honor Roll of Retirees

*Celebrating with us tonight ~ with appreciation for their
dedicated service to students and public education*

Years of Service

- 39.8~Lisa Bowen**~Speech/Language Pathologist,
Middleborough ES
- 39~Darlene Christopher**~Paraeducator
Arbutus ES
- 38~Susan Shaffer**~Prekindergarten Teacher
Summit Park ES
- 37~Connie Trabilsy**~Elementary Classroom
Teacher, Chadwick ES
- 35~Cheryl Bost**~Past MSEA & TABCO President,
Elementary Classroom Teacher
- 34~Cassandra Jackson**~Special Education-
Inclusion, Middle River MS
- 34~Joshua Merrill**~Elementary Classroom Teacher
Arbutus ES
- 32~Gina Decker**~Mathematics Teacher
Sudbrook Magnet MS
- 31~Michele Baylor**~Business/Computer Science
Teacher, Chesapeake HS Stem Academy
- 31~Joanie Dohler**~Kindergarten Teacher
Chapel Hill ES
- 31~Jessica Moody**~School Counselor, Secondary
Loch Raven HS
- 31~Kimberly Brady**~Elementary Classroom
Teacher, Westchester ES
- 31~Leo Weems**~Vocal Music, Elementary
Hebbville ES
- 30.5~Valerie Gorlin Tarbell**~Elementary
Classroom Teacher, Norwood ES
- 30~Regina Ging**~Mathematics Teacher
Ridgely MS
- 30~Sheryl Serevetas**~Mathematics Teacher
Dundalk MS
- 29.4~Deborah Phelps**~ Director, The Education
Foundation of Baltimore County Public
Schools
- 27.4~Nancy Golub**~Accountant II
Greenwood Building E, Controller
- 27~Rhonda Elliott-Hall**~ELD Teacher
Vincent Farm ES
- 27~Sarah Sade**~Science Teacher
General John Stricker MS
- 26~Sheila Thomas**~Principal
Summit Park ES
- 25~Robert Meloni**~IEP Facilitator
Pinewood ES
- 25~Sara Mullin**~Science Teacher
Nottingham MS
- 24~Gail Mayfield**~Mathematics Teacher
Woodlawn HS
- 23~Helen Bullock**~Paraeducator, Special Education
The Chatsworth School
- 23~Valerie Hawkins**~Technology Education
Southwest Academy
- 20~Linda Brown**~Office Secretary
Patapsco HS
- 20~Stephannie Wilson**~School Bus Driver
Inwood Bus Facility
- 19.2~Carolyn Dukes**~Bus attendant
Inwood Bus Facility
- 18~Harriet Haughton**~Paraeducator
Southwest Academy
- 17~Abida Aslam**~Bus Attendant
Inwood Bus Facility
- 15~Doris Thomas**~Building Service Worker
Hawthorne ES
- 13~Barbara Richards**~Mathematics Teacher
Dundalk MS
- 10~Zahida Basit**~Bus Attendant
Inwood Bus Facility
- 10~Anna Williams**~Community School Facilitator
Woodlawn MS
- 5.4~Peggy Brown**~Business Education
Parkville HS
- 5~Teresa Hall**~Special Education-Inclusion
Pikesville HS
- 4~Jeffrey Carter**~Elementary Classroom Teacher
Powhatan ES

**Congratulations to all retirees!
With best wishes for their health
& happiness**

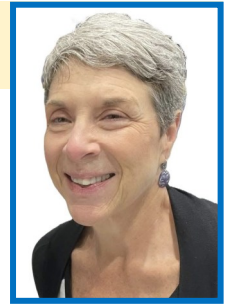


**"Retirement: A chapter closing
with gratitude for the memories made
and a new chapter unfolding with
anticipation for adventures yet to come."**

TABCO LEADERSHIP SERVICE AWARD

Created in 2011, this award is reserved for exceptional service in a TABCO leadership role; someone whose service has significantly enhanced the Association and the betterment of its membership and whose contributions have risen to a level determined to be worthy of special recognition; to be given in special circumstances.

Congratulations ~ and thank you, President Cindy Sexton



First and foremost, Cindy is mom to Christy, Pat, and Jess, and grandmother to Elliott. Education was not Cindy's first profession. Fortunately for us, 2001 launched Cindy's BCPS Library Media Specialist career at Villa Cresta Elementary School. As a conditionally certified teacher, Cindy simultaneously learned the craft of teaching while earning her master's degree. As one who loves learning and reading, Cindy instilled these qualities by impacting thousands of Villa Cresta students.

Cindy's association advocacy began as a Building Rep, informing and recruiting members. Her first MSEA RA in 2012 led to the Women's Leadership Training and NEA RA in 2013, but participating in the 2014 MSEA Summer Leadership Conference ignited action. Learning about effective local association attributes propelled Cindy to speak before the TABCO Board of Directors. She has not looked back since, sharing her learning and suggestions to become a more inclusive and member-engaged association.

As a TABCO Board Member and TABCO President, Cindy compassionately led with conviction. She has been steadfast in fighting for effective recruitment and retention initiatives to ensure new educators are supported, valued, and remain with BCPS. Cindy's tenure as president navigated some scary and polarizing events including the COVID-19 pandemic, safely returning to in-person learning, the ransomware attack, funding challenges, and unyielding attacks on public education. Through it all, Cindy centered her advocacy and leadership on educator and student needs. For these and many more reasons, Cindy is recognized for the TABCO Leadership Service Award.

Tribute from TABCO-Retired~

From our first meeting with newly elected President Cindy Sexton in October of 2019, it was obvious that she was a firm supporter of the rights of retired TABCO members and that she believed that retired members were both a resource and an asset to the Association. Building upon her positivity, we made slow but important steps toward more opportunities for involvement and connection. When retirees faced huge financial and benefits problems due to the cyber-attack on BCPS systems, Cindy facilitated regular meetings between TABCO-R and then-Assistant Superintendent Myriam Yarbrough (now Superintendent Rogers) and other BCPS personnel that led to positive resolutions, and produced a solid, continuing connection between BCPS and retiree advocates. Thanks to Cindy's continued leadership, it is clear that TABCO supports its retired members. Without her moral support and advocacy, the goal of revising bylaws to establish a voting retiree seat on the TABCO Board of Directors could not have been achieved. Cindy has a talent for strong diplomacy. In the most positive way, Cindy can be the "iron fist in a velvet glove," not giving an inch while preserving civility and dignity as she advocates for educator rights. She leads the path through dissent to resolution with insight and intelligence.

Her vision for TABCO and her inclusiveness of TABCO-Retired have been inspirational.

ESPBC 2025 AWARD EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



Jennifer Wachob, Office Professional of the Year

...for consistently demonstrating exceptional dedication, professionalism, and a positive impact on students and school community...for supporting the Language Arts Committee...for her tireless work as a member of the attendance committee maintaining student records, focusing on improving student attendance rates and showcasing her commitment to student success...for her willingness to coordinate and schedule appointments for other office staff to ensure smooth operations within her school...for disseminating information, contacting families and performing student check-ins...for her desire to mentor new office professionals...for always displaying a positive attitude...for her dedication to excellence...for her contributions that have been integral to setting a positive learning environment

for the students...for her problem solving skills and wealth of knowledge and expertise that she brings to her role...it is for all these reasons, Jennifer Wachob has been chosen as the 2025 Education Support Professional of the Year.





2025 TABCO RECOGNITION AWARDS

...are presented annually in acknowledgment of outstanding persons in the field of education, or from the community, who consistently display dedication to education in Baltimore County, and whose contributions go "above and beyond" in advocating, promoting and demonstrating such practices as the following: a quality education for students; an awareness of the varied needs of students and teachers; sound educational programs and policies; professional and emotional support for teachers; a mutual understanding between the educational community and the general public; a positive image of education and educators.

Monique Banks **Community School Facilitator** **Winfield ES**

...for addressing critical needs of school families and staff...for commitment to equity and social justice...for cultivating community partnerships...for planning giveaways to provide help for students and parents with clothing, food and school supplies, including a Thanksgiving turkey dinner giveaway by the Ravens players...for providing essential materials and resources for educators...for working to ensure the success of the Black Excellence Club...for fostering staff camaraderie...for planning events that bring the community together...for consistently contributing a positive attitude and collaborative spirit, exceeding expectations and setting a high standard for students and staff...And for promoting a positive image for her school and community.



Tracy Greene **Math Teacher** **Stoneleigh ES**

...for the exceptional ability to manage multiple duties and responsibilities for her team without missing a beat...for commitment to excellence in advanced fourth and fifth grade math...for organizing enriching field trips...for generously sharing resources and strategies with colleagues...for serving as an advocate and mentor for new teachers, offering guidance and encouragement and fostering collaboration, confidence and professional growth...for serving as team leader and Advanced Academics Coordinator...for her ability to work with challenging students in a patient, understanding, and effective manner that makes a difference in their lives...And for her positive influence on, and contributions to the education community.



Nicole Caple **TABCO-Retired**

...for being a trainer of trainers through MSEA in the *I Can Do It* classroom management series...for serving on the TABCO Board of Directors for many years...for being a co-chair of TABCO's IPD committee and helping to provide opportunities to support educator professional growth...for working as the social committee chair and planning TABCO bus trips to New York City and TABCO nights at Orioles games...for serving as a delegate to MSEA and NEA annual meetings and rep assemblies for many years...for being the person at these events to whom new delegates could always turn for information and advice...for her efforts to support KidCare, which made a difference to BCPS students, working to increase school participation in KidCare and tirelessly working in Kid Care fundraising efforts...for continuing her devotion to the cause with fundraising in her retirement, under the steering committee of TABCO-Retired...for retiring from BCPS in 2023, having taught vocal music for more than 30 years...And for being a supportive, caring person that one can turn to and she will be there for you.



Rhonda Elliott-Hall **English Language** **Development Teacher** **Vincent Farm ES**

...for weaving real-world connections into the curriculum...for the ability to take complex concepts and present them in ways that made them accessible...for eagerly assisting both new and experienced ELD teachers as a model and mentor...for organizing the first Educator Council in a new school building...for promoting a happy and positive working environment...for building a comprehensive support system for students, meeting their academic, emotional and social needs...for working to present a positive image of education and educators, both within and beyond the school environment...for her advocacy for constructive change ...And for highlighting the joy that can be shared even when language barriers exist.



2025 TABCO RECOGNITION AWARDS



Lauren Karow **First Grade Teacher** **Villa Cresta ES**



...for being a leader in parent involvement...for creating a model classroom for phonics instruction...for mentoring math interns...for creating multiple engaging and real world activities such as “Safari Day,” a “Popsicles and Poetry” event, and organizing visits from a local artist, a police officer/SWAT/K9 Unit, and the Ravens Bookmobile...for fostering a spirit of unity and service...for organizing charitable activities such as support for a student whose parent had passed suddenly, and for a hospitalized student, and for leading the collection of can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House...for broadening students’ horizons by bringing the arts into her classroom...for being nominated for the Amira Educator Award...And for her deep commitment to being a strong voice for her grade level, and a leader in her school and community.

Theresa Kraemer **Special Educator** **Summit Park ES**



...for creating strong partnerships with families through transparent, compassionate communication...for creating and executing customized plans that address academic requirements and also foster the social-emotional growth of students...for giving time before and after regular working hours to develop individualized strategies, detailed charts, choice boards, etc., that showcase her collaborative spirit and proactive approach to supporting every student’s success...for the ability to work seamlessly with general educators...for being a source of guidance and advice for colleagues...for being a natural teacher of students with disabilities and a calming presence with difficult behaviors...for being an active TABCO member who attends all meetings and shares ideas to better the school environment...for being a fantastic parent of a special needs child and active member of her church and community...And for inspiring respect, admiration, and appreciation among her co-workers.

Lori Powers **Health Teacher** **Patapsco HS & CFA**



...for being a model of integrity and authenticity...for ensuring that students feel safe to learn new skills and take risks...for leading the Educator Council and advocating for the profession...for being a presence holding student athletes accountable for their actions...for holding high expectations while supporting those who need help to achieve them...for tirelessly supporting students by helping them set ambitious goals, develop essential skills, and navigate the complexities of the college application process...for serving as a class sponsor over many years...for taking on a new role and responsibility to meet the unexpected needs of her school...for successfully “wearing many hats” in a variety of positions...for working on school improvement, rebuilding the school booster program, and being instrumental in helping the school pull together to become an AVID demonstration school...for leadership that oozes positivity...And for being an exceptional “unicorn”— “when you spot a unicorn, you need to tell everyone how awesome it was to witness.”

Melissa St. Clair **Third grade Teacher** **Summit Park ES**



...for taking on leadership roles including Advanced Academics, tech liaison, and math and reading nights coordinator...for supporting the profession through participation in the Educator Council...for constantly differentiating instruction and creating activities for students learning English as a second language...for the commitment of her time to help struggling students, support after school events, and collaborate with colleagues...for projecting calmness and expertise with students and being open-minded to others’ opinions and ideas...for her aptitude in learning new digital platforms and for sharing what she learns...for conferencing with every parent of a student recommended for advanced placement...And for going above and beyond to ensure that students are not only receiving the best education but are also inspired to grow both academically and personally.



ROOKIE RECOGNITION AWARDS

...are designed to recognize those individuals who have worked in Baltimore County Public Schools for fewer than five years as of the date the award is given. This award highlights "rookie" teachers who are successfully developing as professional educators and who are going the extra mile in providing quality education for students and a positive image of education and educators, and who show great promise to be exemplary educators for years to come.

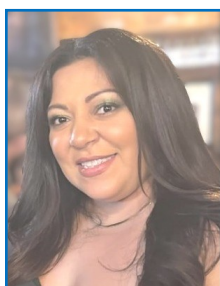


Brigid Gick
Second Grade Teacher
Villa Cresta ES

...for her natural ability to engage students and exceptional classroom management...for going above and beyond the call of duty...for being an active member of the PTA...for

working tirelessly to foster student, family, and staff relationships that build a sense of community...for collaborating with colleagues to meet the diverse needs of students...for creating positive classroom management systems in a real-life setting including a grade level version of "Balloons on Broadway," hosting guest speakers, and inviting community readers into the classroom...for collaborating with the multi-disciplinary team to locate resources and strategies to enhance the teaching and learning process, while working a second job...And for being an exceptional educator whose passion for teaching, leadership, and community involvement, make her a truly a gifted teacher who lights up the classroom.

Mirna "Gaby" Gutierrez
ISDM Teacher
Relay ES



...for tailoring instructional approaches to meet the unique needs of each child...for using fluency in Spanish to engage Spanish-speaking students and connect with families who might otherwise feel isolated...for creating a safe and nurturing environment where students feel supported and valued...for positive energy that brightens days and fosters an atmosphere of camaraderie and teamwork...for sharing teaching strategies that have enriched the school's culture of continuous improvement...for regularly communicating with and taking steps to celebrate milestones with families...for being an Early Career Education Squad member, and for developing leadership and professional skills in the Sparks Program...for being a team player who is always willing to lend a helping hand, and collaborate with staff members...for going above and beyond to deliver well-prepared lessons...for contributing positively to the school's culture and enhancing student motivation...And for her dedication and positive influence that extend beyond the classroom.

Cara Gould
Vocal Music Teacher
Arbutus ES



...for her positive attitude and love of music that is reflected in the outstanding quality of the music program...for taking on two jobs during the first half of the year: vocal music and exploratory music/band teacher...for facilitating family discussions on the needs of our school...for membership in the PBIS community...for gathering, analyzing, and reviewing data to implement a behavior plan...for hosting band practice during her planning time...for arranging visits from the middle and high schools to encourage students' musical potential...for mentoring the new instrumental teacher...for rebuilding the school music program...for creating a space where students can express themselves freely...for a deep commitment to improving student behavior and a positive school culture...for being present at every meeting, discussion, and school initiative...for collaborating with fellow teachers...for participating in TABCO events...And because her creativity and commitment are

Alison Johnson
Special Education Teacher
Maiden Choice ES



...for demonstrating exceptional ingenuity, cross disciplinary collaboration, and strong communication skills...for creating a student-friendly behavior system that has become an invaluable tool for the entire classroom team and training staff...for collaborating with the interdisciplinary team to meet the needs of students and their complex accommodations...for blending two jobs at once, teaching school readiness skills to the younger highly active students, while adapting curriculum for students with complex communication needs...for working with students and parents to use new systems and high tech eye-tracking devices to help students communicate despite limited mobility and non-verbal language...for taking on the special education coordinator role...for working with parents, special education supervisors, related service providers, and school staff to ensure that student needs are met...for being a team player who brings people together...for co-planning curriculum activities including CBI trips and special events...And for having a calming presence, making those around her feel loved and understood.

2025 ROOKIE RECOGNITION AWARDS



Lucy Jung **English Language Arts Teacher** **Dundalk Middle School**

...for being everyone's biggest cheerleader, making sure that every great idea gets the praise that it deserves... for inspiring responsiveness from students...for being an example of donating time for others...for fueling students with the confidence to succeed...for consistently supporting student and community events...for contributing meaningfully to team discussions...for actively seeking opportunities to refine instructional practices...for continually striving for growth and excellence in her field...for mentoring peers and collaborating with other newer faculty members...for tackling the new ELA curriculum with grace...for creativity in planning within standards and curriculum...for creating a safe and positive environment for her students...And for being a "super star rookie."



Devon Rook **Special Educator** **Sparks ES**

...for being a compassionate educator who excels in student relationships, parent communication, and staff collaboration...for involvement in extracurricular activities including the Chess Club...for being hailed by parents as "the male teacher who was so kind" due to the creation of a safe and calming environment for students...for extensive knowledge of reading programs and certification in various reading systems...for creating an accessible one-page snapshot of students that summarizes their diagnosis, services, and expectations for the classroom teacher...for making time outside of the school day for ELA curriculum meetings...for taking multiple Schoology courses to become familiar with and provide information to others...for stepping in and taking on the extra work of managing students while administrators worked through the proper channels to get official accommodations...for presenting potentially difficult information for parents to hear in a way that is relatable, empathetic, and kind...for collaborating on ideas for modification data collection and activities that support and engage students...And for breaking down the intricacies of new protocols and helping coworkers navigate the evolving landscape of special education.



Tracey Marin **Special Education** **Teacher**

Maiden Choice ES

...for having a knack for teaching students with profound handicaps...for exceptional behavior management in the classroom...for extensive collaboration with other team professionals to ensure each child is receiving the appropriate services for their overall development...for utilizing real-life meaningful experiences to teach academic skills, self-help skills, emotional regulation, and behavioral competencies...for dedication that goes beyond the end of the school day, and the many hours spent collaborating with families to ensure student progress and success...for late nights rearranging furniture and creating spaces that maximize student learning, independence, and safety...for leading professional development activities...for hosting peer visits for teachers from outside of the school...for taking charge of the schools' social media presence...for collecting and analyzing data to ensure each child is progressing...for enhancing the curriculum by promoting activities such as a civil rights scavenger hunt...for compassion and a sense of humor that helps keep the job fun...And for her passion and creativity and the many ways she carefully plans instruction to meet the needs of her students.



Julia Roush **Special Education Inclusion** **Norwood ES**

...for being up to date on compliance procedures, policies, and the latest research to provide the best for special education students...for seeking out new learning and pursuing a master's degree in autism...for innovation, creativity, and effectiveness in delivering curriculum instruction and addressing the behavioral and emotional needs of students...for presenting informative professional development opportunities to staff...for joyfully participating in community events and spirit days...for being the secretary of the Educator Council...for initiative, assuming responsibilities without being asked...for taking charge when needed and stepping up to the plate to ensure the safety and success of students...for hours spent outside of the school day tutoring students and being part of the mentoring program at the school...for using her own funds to make learning fun...for working with translators to ensure student success and promote connections between family and school...for going out of her way to increase her Spanish speaking skills...And for being the "calm in the storm" for our students.





2025 ROOKIE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Haley Schmitz School Nurse Pinewood ES



...for communicating with parents in ways that reduce workload for other colleagues...for skills dealing with anxious students...for effectively communicating relevant health-related procedures and expectations...for working to assist students with health impairments and assisting parents in accessing resources...for her efforts to know and acknowledge individual students...for creating a comforting and inclusive environment...for taking the initiative to establish a Wellness Committee...for partnering with other staff members to help them understand individual student health needs...for her warm smile and calm demeanor with students that instill a sense of trust...for beginning health initiatives for the students and staff...And for knowing, respecting, and actively caring for the students at Pinewood.



Kelsey Shifflett Kindergarten General Educator Glyndon ES

...for leading the Destination Imagination club, focusing on students in K-2 working together to develop strategies in challenging situations...for coaching the middle school girls' basketball team...for leading the Kindergarten team and ensuring that teachers have what they need to implement impactful instruction...for leadership as the grade level Professional Learning Community representative...for volunteering time and support to colleagues...for collecting and analyzing data for IEP meetings so that students get needed accommodations...for mentoring teammates and new educators...for preparing the Kindergarten teams' newsletters and morning work...for creating engaging center activities that inspire a love of learning...for advocating for student needs and working to ensure that students never go hungry...for connecting with families regarding resources needed and referring them to supports such as community food banks...for participating on Educator Council...And for her hard work, dedication, and team leadership.

Maleah Tate, Social Studies Teacher Western School of Technology & Environmental Science

...for having a massive impact on students, coworkers, and families...for mastering multiple content areas...for sponsoring and leading various school clubs and organizations including the school's Gay Straight Alliance Chapter...for creating a Student of the Month Program to reward students' social and academic achievements...for being an active TABCO member...for leading professional development activities that increase best practices and instruction...for taking numerous professional development courses...for planning lessons that fit the new Scope and Sequence with the necessary modifications needed to promote student accessibility and achievement...for leading the ninth grade Social Studies Professional Learning Community meetings, which has benefited the department greatly...for regularly supporting school sporting events, concerts, and PTA meetings...for being reflective and responding well to feedback while maintaining a positive relationship with both faculty and administration...for providing students of color with a positive role model...for being a rock by supporting others both mentally and emotionally during their time of need with a voice of wisdom...And for consistently showing pride, determination, and excellence.



Special Thanks to

- ~Committee Co-chairs Jillian Lewis-Darden & Jeffrey Starr; TABCO-Retired members Angela Leitzer, Roxann Russo, & Mary Ellen Vecchioni; ESPBC members Monica Altamura & Dianna Woodlon
- ~TABCO Staff Kim Melfa and Ana Negrete-Garcia, and the UniServ Directors
- ~President Cindy Sexton, Executive Director Ben Forstenzer, the TABCO Officers & Board of Directors, and ESPBC President Jeannette Young
- ~The anonymous committee that deliberated on the nominations for recognition
- ~All "basket-makers" & prize donors; and to KidCare Committee members Sonja Floyd, Tammy Mills, Nicole Caple and Phyllis Zaremba. and TABCO retiree Lisa Levee, for preparing baskets for the raffle
- ~And to those who nominated their outstanding colleagues for Recognition and Rookie Awards.

JOIN TABCO-Retired!

(the ONLY retiree organization affiliated with NEA, MSEA, and TABCO)

