



Great Falls Public Schools

Good Apple Award Recipients

Jim McCormick, Executive Director, Great Falls Rescue Mission, and all this staff, was recommended for Good Apple Award by Tom Moore, Superintendent, District Office Building, because of the following: This past year Jim and his team have committed to serving lunches to the staff members at all of our schools and buildings! They have done this in an effort to bless our employees and to give back to the people who care for the children in our community. We are truly thankful and appreciative of Jim's leadership and desire to feed and care for our people in Great Falls Public Schools. In honor of his desire and commitment to serve others, I ask that Jim McCormick be given the prestigious, GFPS Good Apple Award.

Bridgette Pence, Counselor, and **Zane Vanlieshout**, Industrial Technology Teacher, both Great Falls High School, were recommended for a Good Apple Award by Shianne Currey, Associate Principal, Great Falls High, because of the following: Last week I received a PAR on a student for telling a staff member to #\$\$%^ off. As I tried to talk with the student he was non-communicative to the point of almost being curled up in a fetal position in the chair in my office. I asked a number of probing questions, blah, blah, blah. He finally told me he preferred to work with his hands...more questions...he does not like school except for his welding class...more questions...he might like to own a house someday. I spoke of a number of options when I mention Job Corp he perked up, he had heard of it and his dad had mentioned something about it as an option. I told him I was not sure of the process BUT I did know someone who did, his counselor. I offered to set up a meeting with Dad to discuss the option, he agreed and asked if Mr. Vanlieshout could also be invited. At the meeting Mrs. Pence and Mr. Vanlieshout took over. They discussed his abilities, potential, and the option of Job Corps. They reviewed how it could help him with his long-term goals and the benefits of the program. Mrs. Pence offered to set up another meeting with a Job Corp advisor and Mr. V said he would attend that meeting as well, in the meantime he offered to let the student work in the shop (during an open period) on his English credit recovery to ensure the student continued to make progress. At the next meeting they hammered out a step by step plan to ensure his next step is Job Core. We now have a student with a plan! His entire demeanor has changed, he smiles in the hall, he says hello, and he is so close to passing his English class! In addition, I overheard him in the hall yesterday encouraging another student (with chronic attendance issues) to go to class! I'm making this nomination because without the extra effort and encouragement these two educators showed this student I doubt he would be in attendance today. As of now, he should graduate in the spring and he has a plan for the day after graduation! It would have been easy for them to just chalk him up as another drop out, instead they took the time so show him how to achieve his goal. I always say, there are multiple ways to measure success, these two educators have helped support this student in finding **his** path to success.