

## **Simms Ashe Teacher Assistant of the Year**

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Ashe County Schools is pleased to announce the Ashe County Schools Teacher Assistant of the Year. Teacher assistants play a vital role in the education of Ashe County students and we value their dedication and on-going service to our schools. These paraprofessionals provide instructional support and clerical assistance for the classroom teacher daily. They are constantly in motion from the time they arrive until they leave.

Mrs. Sandra Simms is a teacher assistant at the kindergarten grade level. Mrs. Simms has worked for Ashe County Schools since 2001 in different capacities including substitute teacher, tutor and part-time assistant. She has been employed as a full-time assistant since August 2007.

She states, "I love working with children and I try hard to be a key resource by providing support for my students, their parents, and my school. As such I hope to enable students to become more independent learners and raise standards of achievement for all pupils."

The criteria for selection included

Employment as a teacher assistant with Ashe County Schools for a minimum of three years

Must possess characteristics of a team player exemplifying collaboration and a willingness to be flexible and understanding

Provide a source of positive and enthusiastic energy in the classroom

Exhibit compassion toward the students

Each school nominated their Teacher Assistant of the Year to represent their colleagues during the 2012-2013 year. The following teacher assistants were nominated by their peers:

Linda Sloan, Ashe County High School

Sara Houck, Ashe County Middle School

Linda Campbell, Blue Ridge Elementary School

Michelle Davis, Mountain View Elementary

Sandra Simms, Westwood Elementary