

LOCAL LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NEWMEXICO

Everyday Hero, Yvette Gonzales



Social Worker and Transition Coordinator for Special Education, Cobre Consolidated School

June Gatlin, Silver City District Transition Specialist, nominates an Everyday Hero.

Yvette appears to me to be a very dedicated and hard-working individual that puts all her efforts and her heart into her job. She really does dedicate herself to the individuals that she works with.

I have sat in on IEP meetings with her, and have actually been amazed at how far she goes to make her students feel comfortable and safe at school. She genially takes a special interest in all her students, and cares deeply for them. She is always willing to put out what ever help she can give them, and or tries to lead them in the right direction.

Coming from a different field than hers, she has taken the time to listen to me and to see my concerns with transitions. She has reached out to families and has started to make transition plans way earlier than them being a senior. We work together to see that her clients have a direction to go in when they reach their Senior Year.

Thank you for considering her for this award.

June Gatlin, DTS, Silver City Office

Alex Rios, Education Specialist, PFE Interviews Yvette

As a young adult, what inspired you to work in the field of transition services?

Working as a social worker in the schools helped to lay the path for me to work in the field of transition with students and their families.

How many years have you been working in the field of transition services?

I have been working in the field of transition services for 8 years.

What is the most rewarding part of working as a transition coordinator with Cobre Consolidated School District?

The most rewarding part of working as a transition coordinator is the ability to work closely with the students of the Cobre District. I am able to develop a relationship with each of my students, which allows me to get to know each of them personally.

. "I love to decorate my office door for every holiday and event which provides a fun and welcoming atmosphere for the students, families and staff." -Yvette

In your opinion, why is it important to begin talking about transition plans with students and their families early on in their school career?

It is important to begin talking about transition plans early in the school year, because this gives the student and their families the opportunity to learn about what is available such as resources, job-training programs, explore options such as personal skills, interests, and education programs to help them prepare for the future.

"I have actually been amazed at how far she goes to make her students feel comfortable and safe at school" ~June Gatlin

What are you excited to see happen in the future within the field of transition services?

It would be exciting to see the community participate in providing students the chance to become part of the work force program so students in Special Education can learn independence and job skills

Do you have any advice for younger professionals just entering this field?

To be confident, ask questions and advocate for yourself.



More about this Everyday Hero

Yvette Gonzales is as a Social Worker and the Transition Coordinator for Special Education with Cobre Consolidated School. She has been working with students from seventh to 12th grade in the field of transition since 2012. Her years working in public education have been rewarding; she says, "I have the opportunity to work closely with each of my students. I always have an "open-door" policy, which allows every student in the school to come to my office when needed."

Another interest of Yvette's is to provide students of the Cobre District the opportunity to travel. She is an active participant in the Education First (EF) tours as a group Leader. As an EF Group Leader, she provides students with an opportunity to travel during summer vacation. Each tour allows students to learn about various cultures, foods and meet new people. Some of the places she has traveled with students include Spain, Ireland, England, Washington, D.C., and New York.

When Yvette is not working, she loves to spend time with family, shop, attend school athletics, travel, and be outdoors camping and fishing.



To nominate an Everyday Hero,
contact Marcy Hintz at
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