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NEWS RELEASE

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ECSD Stellar Employee of the Year for 2020-2021

During the May meeting of the Escambia County School Board, the name of Escambia County School District's Stellar Employee of the Year was announced. Superintendent Tim Smith introduced Suzanne Barnes who was also the Stellar Employee for the Month of February. She is the administrative school secretary at Brown Barge Middle School. She has been with the district for ten (10) years, and in her position for five and one-half (5.5) years. He told those in attendance that to be stellar means to be exceptionally good or outstanding; Suzanne Barnes is far beyond a *stellar employee*.

Smith continued to share that Suzanne Barnes is the epitome of the phrase: *calm in the storm*. For anyone who is not familiar with Brown-Barge Middle School, they are a passionate and energetic group of people teaching students in very unconventional, yet very effective ways. That never deterred Barnes from moving to the school secretary position from her position of bookkeeper, even knowing all the unconventional ways they operate.

"Ms. Barnes is an amazing 'director of first impressions' for all who enter the lobby at Brown Barge Middle School. She juggles parents, students, staff and teachers, all while carefully orchestrating the day-to-day operations of a very busy front office," said Superintendent Smith. "Barnes is the absolute go-to person in any time of need for all of the staff members at Brown Barge. Barnes is unequivocally adored by the staff and students, and it shows in their actions, comments, little appreciation notes and pre-Covid hugs. You would not have known that a couple of years ago she was battling cancer and dealing with multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. Through all of her trials and tribulations, Barnes came out on the other side a stronger and more confident individual who realized just how much she was loved."

According to Brown Barge's Principal Joe Snyder, Suzanne Barnes is his sounding board, voice of reason, confidant and complete rockstar! The administration of Brown Barge Middle School is proud of her accomplishments and the school is a much better place because of her presence. Barnes deserves all accolades, congratulations and kind loving words; and her school loves her dearly. Ms. Barnes personifies the pillars of "people" and "service". It is

for these reasons and more that she has been selected as ECSD's Stellar Employee of the Year.

During the May School Board meeting, Ms. Barnes received a plaque from the school district and a check for \$500 from Members First Credit Union that was presented by Adetoun Sanders, Vice President for Marketing and Business Development.

Photos from the meeting are posted on Facebook, on the page – Escambia Schools Public Relations. The meeting can also be watched on that page or on the ECSD Youtube channel or on the video linked to the Board Meeting Information page. <http://escambiacountysdfi.swagit.com/play/05192021-1055>

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