

Meet your neighbors

Honored administrator will miss Morris schools

Susan Ladd
40, Morristown

Accomplishment

Ladd has returned to Monmouth County to work as the Colts Neck School District's director of curriculum and instruction, a position she held in the Mendham Borough and Chester schools.

In the spring, Ladd received the New Jersey National Board Administrator of the Year award. The honor is granted to one school or district administrator who has shown exceptional support of the National Board process and teachers pursuing National Board Certification.

Ladd was among the 21 New Jersey educators recognized by the Business Coalition for Education Excellence during a ceremony at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. The other honorees were noted for obtaining National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

A tedious process

Certification is achieved through a set of tests and tasks that takes between one and

three years to complete. It measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do.

"National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession," Ladd explained. "The work to earn certification is probably one of the best forms of teacher development."

About seven years ago, Ladd worked with the National Committee to revise portfolio requirements that are part of the certification process, a project that took more than two years.

The new requirements were changed to reflect the rigorous standards.

Background

Ladd was raised in Hillsborough, Somerset County, and moved to Morristown about a year ago.

Before working for the Mendham Borough schools, she was employed by the Rumson School District in Monmouth County. There, Ladd served for five years as supervisor of curriculum and staff development. She began her career in 1989 at the Hopewell Valley School District

in Mercer County as an elementary school teacher.

Ladd described her experience at the Mendham and Chester districts, which she joined in May 2006, as "extremely fulfilling."

Her own schooling

Ladd earned a bachelor of science in elementary school education from the University of Delaware in Newark, Del., and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Rider University in Lawrenceville.

Professional memberships

Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, past assistant director; New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; National Middle School Association.

Hobbies

Skiing, the beach, bicycling, photography

Family

Ladd is the youngest of seven children of Connie Ladd and the late Robert Ladd.

— Susan Lake



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