

2023 Hall of Fame Inductee

PATRICIA ALLEN

Written by Ashley Mullis and Brigman Reed

For 26 years, Patricia Allen served HCPS by welcoming and informing the public on all that the school district had to offer. As Public Information Officer, she created many publications, advertisements, and outreach materials that helped keep the community connected and informed about our school system. While serving as a receptionist and an assistant to the Community Schools Director, she helped to design informational brochures, welcome packets for new teachers, general information packets for parents, annual reports, and she even won a Golden Achievement Award for her document, *“Goals Forum and Public Relations After Merger.”* Not only has she left her mark in the county offices, but Patricia Allen has also worked in many areas of the school system such as the office of Fletcher Elementary, their cafeteria, and their media center.

Starting her career in 1988 as an assistant at Fletcher Elementary, Allen’s years of hard work paid off with her career ending in 2014 as Public Information Officer. In her time spent at Fletcher, she describes it as being a part of a family where she knew the names of every student at the school and loved every minute she spent there. She also helped out in the school’s cafeteria, where she aided in calculating the income of parents whose students needed a free and reduced lunch, and in making the forms for that program. This was an area where she left her mark in the school, as nominator Barbara Case Blaine said, “District Child Nutrition leadership praised her error-free calculations!”

In 1993, Allen went from being an assistant at Fletcher Elementary to a receptionist in the administrative offices of the Henderson County Board of Public Education and Henderson County Public Schools. Here she flourished, making materials to aid those who were new to the county and providing information on the district. She also made an annual report for Henderson County Schools and was awarded for her outstanding work that focused on the children that they served. As former county Superintendent Tom Burnham said, “Without question, the high-quality publications and other community efforts coordinated by Trish were a major factor in gaining the support of county commissioners and local businesses and families for the construction of new schools and higher levels of funding for academic programs and reduced class size.”

She was known for helping coordinate student and staff recognitions and appreciation days, and she took many photographs and collected information about HCPS. She was also influential in helping create the district’s first website.

Overall, Patricia Allen has influenced many in Henderson County whether it’s students, parents, or colleagues with her outstanding work, attention to detail, and care for those in the community. As Tom Burnham said, “At all times, Tricia balanced her devotion to the members of her community with exceptional interpersonal skill as well as a passion for and dedication to every project embraced.”

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