



Clinton Public School District
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Paula DeYoung chosen as district's Parent of the Year

CLINTON — Paula DeYoung is no stranger to the teachers and staff in the Clinton Public School District.

The mother of four (Callen, Carsson, Garrett and Tanner) has played an active role in PTAs at each school where her children attend, and currently serves as president of the Sumner Hill PTA. And on Monday, she was awarded the school district's Parent of the Year, in a surprise reception at Sumner Hill Junior High School.

"She's done recognitions for students, VIP, exemplary behavior, Straight Arrow, health council, she's helped with hospitality," said Sumner Hill Assistant Principal Teresa Duke. "She's in charge of all of it. She helped with the mother/daughter and father/son events."

DeYoung was chosen from among the seven Parents of the Year at each school. As the Clinton Public School District's 2009-2010 Parent of the Year, DeYoung will represent the district in the state's Parent of the Year competition this spring, hosted by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Duke said it is great to have such a high level of support from DeYoung and the Sumner Hill PTA.

"Anytime we need something, they're there," she said. "They say, 'What can we do?' It's awesome how they're willing to find a way to make things work. Mrs. DeYoung is just a brilliant lady. She's amazing."

Sumner Hill Principal Willie McInnis echoed Duke's sentiments.

"Mrs. DeYoung is a mother of four and works full time," he said. "She travels a lot. But even with all this on her plate she always makes time for her children and time to stay active in the things they are doing."

Dr. Phil Burchfield, superintendent, said choosing a Parent of the Year was difficult this year.

"We have so many parents who go above and beyond to make sure that their children are getting a quality education," he said. "Every school's Parent of the Year was an outstanding example of the uncommon level of parent support we enjoy in Clinton. And Paula DeYoung is a prime example of that. It's parents like the DeYongs who make this a great school district."

Photo: Dr. Phil Burchfield, superintendent of schools, presents Paula DeYoung with a “Parent of the Year” certificate as her husband Danny and daughter Callen look on. DeYoung will represent the Clinton Public School District in the statewide competition for Parent of the Year sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Education.

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