

Nomination for Year 1 Support Provider of the Year:

BROWN, JEFF

Green Acres Middle School

Visalia Unified School District

When I was first interviewed at Green Acres Middle School, I was introduced to a funny group of people. I came to find out that my BTSA Support Provider was one of the funniest guys on campus. Jeff Brown is a Support Provider for both myself and Jonni Gibson, another first year teacher on our campus.

Jeff was always there to talk to us on a daily basis. He has shared his wisdom and taught us how to get through our first year of teaching. He has seen both of us cry tears of both sorrow and joy. He was there for us to talk to when we have something horrible going on or just to sit with us and rejoice in a simple or major accomplishment.

He not only took us under his wing, but has made us feel very comfortable with other members of the staff. He always has great advice and knows how to make us feel welcomed at school. Besides spending a lot of time working with us in completing BTSA Induction assignments, he has also taken plenty of hours out of his personal life to meet with us both to just talk "teacher stuff."

I speak for both Jonni and I when I say that we are so glad to have Jeff as a mentor and a co-worker. As Jonni and I are both new to the area, he has taken us under his wing like a father figure and has definitely made our first year in Visalia much more comforting. We are so pleased to work with Jeff, and cannot wait for more jokes to be played at Green Acres. We also look forward to sharing more lunches together to talk about how to deal with the weird situations of junior high school students.

Jeff is not only a BTSA Support Provider to both of us, but also coaches for the Science Olympiad team, of which our Green Acres students will be competing at state level in a few weeks. Jeff is dedicated to his job and everything it entails. He has never taken BTSA Induction lightly, and is someone you can definitely go to for wisdom. Jonni and I would like to take the time to nominate Jeff for all he has done for us throughout this year.

Kristin Lilly

Jonni Gibson

Participating Teachers

Green Acres Middle School

Visalia Unified School District

Nomination for Year 1 Support Provider of the Year:

BERRA, BERT

West Putnam Elementary

Porterville Unified School District

I nominate Bert Berra for Support Provider of the Year. Mr. Berra has been supportive and motivating in his approach to help me stay on task with my first-year BTSA Induction obligations. Being a new teacher is such a learning experience; I often work tedious hours on specific details of some lessons, so it would have been easy to put off completing events until a later date. Waiting would have left me in a state of chaos trying to finish on time. Mr. Berra's persistent persuasion has kept me up to date.

Mr. Berra was patient when I forgot to attend a session or two, but he prompted us to have a quick make-up session. He was eager and flexible with rescheduling; I appreciated his efforts to keep me moving forward although I know I complicated his schedule.

Although Mr. Berra and I have a several year gap in regards to the grades we teach, he has taken helpful tips, teaching techniques, and classroom management suggestions that he had found valuable in his own teaching experience and then demonstrated how I might use them with my own kindergarten students.

Please consider Mr. Berra for Support Provider of the Year. Thank you! You could not have chosen a more compatible and supportive provider for my first-year BTSA Induction experience.

Sincerely requested,

Carolyn Arthur

Participating Teacher

West Putnam Elementary

Porterville Unified School District

Nomination for Year 1 Support Provider of the Year:

CONKLIN, JONELLE

Dinuba Unified School District

My BTSA Induction Support Provider is Jonelle Conklin. I met Jonelle when doing a long-term assignment last year. She was a great source of help for me. Everyday, she would make sure I was okay and then offer help if needed. I was really excited at the beginning of the year when I found out that she would be my Support Provider. I knew if she was there for me when I wasn't even in the BTSA Induction program, she would be a great asset for me as a first-year teacher. As I had assumed, Jonelle has always been there for me this year as well.

She has given me wonderful ideas that will promote better teaching, as well as helping set up my classroom at the beginning of the year. I know that if I need anything she will be the person to go to all lengths in helping me accomplish task at hand. She has always given good, corrective criticism when needed. Once she has given me an idea, I normally run with it and try it out. It is obvious that Jonelle has been in the classroom as a teacher for many years, because she knows what it is like to teach and the struggles that go along with the profession. This year I believe my success is due to the help of Jonelle Conklin, my friend, as well as Support Provider.

Thank you,
Kimberly Thomason
Participating Teacher
Wilson School
DUSD

Nomination for Year 1 Support Provider of the Year:

SEBESTA, CAROL
Elbow Creek Elementary
Visalia Unified School District

I am honored to nominate Carol Sebesta for Support Provider of the Year. I feel that she should be chosen because she has guided me to be the best educator that I could possibly be. She has not only given me confidence in myself as a teacher, but has given me confidence in life. As scary as first year teaching can be, Carol helped me find a healthy balance between my career and my life.

In the beginning, I was so nervous to have Carol observe me. I soon realized that she is there to help me grow as an educator. We would spend hours talking and making decisions that would better help me in the classroom. I appreciated all of her comments and suggestions, and used many of her ideas in my classroom.

Carol Sebesta has been a true angel in my life. She helped me through the frustrations of teaching, and helped me realize that it is normal and all teachers feel like that at times. She would tell me that it was a good thing, because it shows I care and want to continually improve.

Being a first-year teacher and having to do BTSA Induction is hard; but without it, I don't think I would have ever met Carol, so for that I am thankful. Carol is a gentle, kind-hearted and intelligent person. She is always so welcoming to me and is always there to help me. This year, I not only gained a phenomenal mentor, I gained a wonderful friend.

Kristin Haley
Union Elementary
Visalia Unified School District

Nomination for Year 1 Support Provider of the Year:

VALDEZ, MELISSA

Monson-Sultana Jt. Union Elementary

We are writing to nominate our Support Provider, Melissa Valdez, for Support Provider of the Year. Mrs. Valdez is an energetic and compassionate Support Provider who invests deeply into the successes of her Participating Teachers. This year, she is a Support Provider for three new teachers here at Monson-Sultana. However, this is not her only hat here at our small school. She currently runs our curriculum office, manages the English language support program and is forever lending her support to anyone in need.

More specifically, Mrs. Valdez has done an excellent job in preparing us, her Participating Teachers, for all the BTSA Induction requirements in our first year. She is available for conversation or support on a daily basis and has made herself accessible whenever we had a more in-depth BTSA Induction related or classroom related issue.

We feel that Melissa Valdez has exceeded the requirements of being a good support provider. In her first year with this title, she has been a guide, mentor and become friends with her teachers, providing us with what we feel, was a well rounded support system for our first year as teachers in the California educational system. We look forward to completing our second year of BTSA Induction, and with her encouragement and support, we are well on our way!

Thank you for considering our "Super Support Provider," Melissa Valdez. We hope you think she is as wonderful as we do.

Sincerely,

Kate Jost

Denise Bese

Wendy Hernandez

Participating Teachers

Monson-Sultana Jt. Union Elementary

Nomination for Year 2 Support Provider of the Year:

DANIELSON, JOANNE
Green Acres Middle School
Visalia Unified School District

Before one can nominate a BTSA Induction Support Provider of the year, one must understand the minimum requirements. A BTSA Support Provider (otherwise known as an SP) is responsible for helping Participating Teachers (a.k.a. PTs) interpret and make sense of the abundance of acronyms that abound in education, and are an integral part of BTSA Induction correspondence. An SP is also responsible for mentoring, meeting with, and assisting in the completion of twelve induction events which push PTs to excel in their teaching practice. Those duties, in and of themselves, are quite a task. However, there are those who excel in the role of SP and go above and beyond the call of duty.

In the *Green Acres* tradition, Joanne Danielson, SP extraordinaire, has also exceeded her duties over the past two years. She has not only covered my morning duty faithfully for the past two years, she has supported me mentally, physically, and emotionally. In fact, knowing how hard I have been working as a new teacher in lesson planning, grading, and completing CFFAST events, she is even going to baby-sit for my husband and me. She even insists on buying my lunch when we meet at Panera on Saturdays. Joanne knows we all need to take a break from the boundaries of our school at least once in a while.

Joanne has shown me what it is to be a caring, devoted teacher. When I lose patience with a certain student, she tells me a success story and once again, I am hopeful. She listens to my frustrations as a new teacher, gives advice, and when necessary, a hug. I don't know how I would have navigated the acronyms, paperwork, behavior management, and lesson planning without her. Joanne is truly the embodiment of a perfect Support Provider.

Carrie Kears
Participating Teacher
Green Acres Middle School
Visalia Unified School District

Nomination for Year 2 Support Provider of the Year:

ERNEST, MARLA

J. J. Cairns Continuation High School
Lindsay Unified School District

My Support Provider for BTSA Induction is Marla Ernest and I would like to nominate her for Support Provider of the Year. My name is Dennis Doane and I am on the early completion track for BSTA Induction. Having to finish both years in one year has been quite a challenge. Marla has been trained in the first year requirements for the Support Provider, but she had to be trained for Year Two this year while being my Support Provider.

Marla has been very encouraging and supportive the whole time through. She understands what it takes to be a great teacher and knows how to pass that experience along to her peers. She is prompt and professional. Each time we met, she had everything ready to go. She knew what needed to be done and how we were going to get it done. There was absolutely no way I could have completed the early completion for BTSA Induction without her as my Support Provider.

She is an amazing teacher for the students and she is an amazing mentor for other teachers. The best way I can sum up why Marla Ernest should be the BTSA Support Provider of the Year is that because of her, I am a better teacher.

Dennis Doane

Participating Teacher

J. J. Cairns Continuation High School
Lindsay Unified School District

Nomination for Year 2 Support Provider of the Year:

ROBERSON, LYNDA

Lindsay Unified School District

Lynda Roberson
Woman of Character

Very few people have earned my respect as much as my Support Provider, Lynda Roberson. I have come to know her quite well over the four years that we have worked together, first in IMPACT and now in the BTSA Induction program. Lynda is a pillar in our community, and is well-known for her excellent classroom instruction, positive outlook, upbeat personality, and fun-loving spirit. When my fellow teachers found out that I was working with her, they proceeded to tell me how she had taught their children in the first grade, and what an outstanding teacher and person she is.

During the time I have worked with her, Lynda has modeled what it means to be a person of character. Despite several family tragedies, she has never allowed life's negative circumstances to dampen her spirits. She always has a genuine smile on her face, and a kind word or piece of wisdom to impart.

Lynda has always freely given of her time, expertise, and help. She has given me many wonderful ideas for running my classes more smoothly, has encouraged me to keep going when things were tough or I was pregnant and exhausted, and has gone out of her way to help me personally as well. One time, when I had misplaced my keys, Lynda drove all the way to Tulare to pick me up, and then drove me back to Lindsay so that we could meet and I could go to work afterward. I don't know many other Support Providers who would be willing to go out of their way for me like Lynda has on many occasions!

The prospect of receiving my professional clear credential is intoxicating, but it is bittersweet. I will genuinely miss Lynda observing my classes, giving me positive feedback, suggestions, and demonstrating what it means to live one's life with purpose and integrity. Lynda, I will miss you a great deal, but I know that whomever you work with next will benefit from your many years of expertise; and I only hope that they appreciate you as much as I have. Thank you for everything.

Jenny Silva

Participating Teacher

Lindsay High School

Lindsay Unified School District

Nomination for Year 2 Support Provider of the Year:

VANDERFORD, Mary Ann
Earlimart Elementary

Mary Ann Vanderford is the BEST Support Provider

In Earlimart, the district has a Support Provider who takes care of all BTSA Induction participants. Last year, the Support Provider left her position to work for the county; so we were without a Support Provider for a few months. Then we were given temporary Support Providers. Finally, around December, we were assigned our current Support Provider, Mary Ann Vanderford. I don't know if she knew what she was getting herself into when she applied for and accepted the position, but she is still with us after a year and a half.

Even though Mary Ann came in almost half way through the school year, she got to work. She has all of the Participating Teachers on a schedule and meets with us regularly. She takes the time to analyze the events and explain them in a way that we can understand and already has a great grasp of all twelve events. She provides us with so much information.

Along with her duties of taking care of about 18 Participating Teachers, which she takes the time to get to know on a personal level, she is also responsible for running the new teachers' meeting held monthly at our district. She has to come up with topics that will affect teachers new not only to teaching, but to the district.

I really don't know how she does it, she has two young boys at home who are involved in sports, and she comes in everyday with a great big smile on her face. Mary Ann is a great Support Provider.

Stephanie Mendes
Participating Teacher
Earlimart Middle School