

Henrichsen named Elementary Teacher of the Year



Stephen F. Austin Elementary School teacher Roseanna Henrichsen said she always thought she would be a nurse like her beloved grandmother. But when she realized that the sight of blood caused her to faint, she decided to consider other options.

She always loved school and had many outstanding teachers over the years at Highlands Elementary, Highlands Junior School, and Sterling High School where she was a charter member of the Sterling Stars.

Roseanna Henrichsen Stephen F. Austin

After attending Lee College for one year, she transferred to Sam Houston State University. There she decided to major in elementary education and enjoyed many opportunities to observe and help in the Huntsville school district and the university's lab school.

She signed up for a kindergarten class one semester just to fill in a blank spot in her schedule. "I immediately fell in love with kindergarten!" she said.

She completed the requirements for kindergarten certification before graduating with a teaching degree and certifications.

Mrs. Henrichsen was hired by the Commerce School District to teach an all-day kindergarten class and did so for three years.

After staying home for five years with her children, Mrs. Henrichsen returned to teaching at Stephen F. Austin Elementary School in 1981

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"My love for kindergarten continued as I taught hundreds of eager 5 year olds for the next 31 years," she said.

During this time, she worked with Stephen F. Austin State University and the University of Houston at Clear Lake as a cooperating teacher for several student teachers.

Dozens of Lee College students have observed in her classroom over the course of her teaching career.

She also served as a mentor for new kindergarten teachers on campus.

"I am blessed to have enjoyed a long career in education. Perhaps the most rewarding years have been the past 16 years teaching the gifted and talented kindergarten class. I love the challenge of working with these unique children," she said. "As I look forward to retirement, I know that I made the best choice. I am a teacher.

After retirement, Mrs. Henrichsen plans to spend more time with her family. Her longtime friends and Bunco group recently helped her celebrate retirement with a trip to Las Vegas. More trips are planned for San Francisco, Chicago, New Orleans, and the annual retreat to Wimberly. She is also planning her first visit to Disney World with her grandchildren in December.

Other interests include shopping, live theater, UT football, reading, and watching Dancing with the Stars.

She hopes to become more proficient on the computer, work in her yard, and just enjoy life.

"The Goose Creek school district has been a part of my life since I was 5 years old. Thanks for the lifetime of memories.'





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