

2008 - 2009 Management Employee of the Year



WAYNE PETERSON
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Mr. Wayne Peterson is the 2009 Paso Robles Joint Unified School District Management Team Member of the year. Wayne is a hometown success story. After graduating from Paso Robles High School in 1965, Wayne attended Cuesta College. At that time, unknown to him, there was a person on the campus who would change his life forever. Wayne was drafted into the Army and sent to Colorado Springs for training. While he was there, he met Kathy, the special person who had been on the Cuesta campus the year before. After being stationed in Viet Nam as a Communications Center Leader, Sergeant Wayne returned home where he married Kathy in 1970. A year later he completed his AA degree at Cuesta.

As parents of three daughters, Wayne and Kathy kept themselves joyfully busy raising their children. Besides being a loving father and a devoted husband, Wayne owned a business, was involved with sales, publications and retail/wholesale business management. If you lived in Paso, you would have known Wayne as the assistant manager of Thrifty Drugs. While being a parent, a husband and a manager, Wayne returned to school and received his Bachelor's Degree from National University in 1985. He then completed his teaching credential at Cal Poly. Later, he returned to Poly to complete his Master's Degree in Education Administration.

After student teaching at Flamson Middle School, Wayne was hired, at the same site, as a substitute teacher in December of 1985. The rest is history! Wayne taught at Flamson until 1989 when he became the assistant principal. As if that weren't enough, he became the first principal of Lewis Middle School a year later, serving in that capacity until 1999. At that time, Wayne requested to return to his first love, the classroom. He has always considered teaching a noble profession. For the next seven and a half years, Wayne enjoyed his time in the classroom as a sixth and seventh grade CORE teacher. In January of 2007, Wayne was asked to return to administration as the principal of Peterson Elementary School. Despite what Wayne may say, the school was not named after him! Within the next year and a half, the Peterson staff and parents, under Wayne's leadership, reached the magic 800 API score.

Wayne's peers will tell you that he is a team player on whom you can always count because he is a man of his word. Wayne will not "beat around the bush." He will tell you in an ethical and respectful manner what he believes is the solution to a problem at hand. This is why he is not only a great educator but a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. CONGRATULATIONS, WAYNE.