Our *Faces of Education* honorees this evening are Kathy Chitwood and Diane Jackson. Both ladies serve as Food Service Supervisor and Assistant Food Service Supervisor, respectively, in the cafeteria at Bloomington High School South. They are nominated by their colleague, Lori Miller, who works on Food Services staff at the BHSS.

Kathy joined MCCSC Food Services in 1996, while Diane was hired in 2000. Today, they head up a team that serves nearly 1,800 meals to students and staff on a daily basis. Running such a large operation in a compressed timeframe requires a lot of teamwork, and Kathy and Diane compliment each other well, Lori Miller said in her nomination. “She (Kathy) is always willing to teach us all aspects of the kitchen; she never gets tired of us asking questions and always wants us to continually learn.” Lori also went on to describe her assistant supervisor’s role in the kitchen. “Diane is a very caring and compassionate worker…She comes along side of Kathy and helps oversee the running of the kitchen.”

Both ladies take pride in the quality of their work. Each day you will find Kathy and Diane making sure that each line has well-balanced meals with plenty of extra options for the students. Behind the scenes, they run an effective operation as they have adopted a teach-while-doing philosophy. You will never find the team leaders asking their staff members to something that they are not willing to do themselves, especially if the kitchen is short staffed on a particular day.

In addition to leading a team, Kathy and Diane have individual duties they must accomplish to keep the kitchen running smoothly. Ordering of food, applying money to accounts and closing the kitchen every day are just a few of Kathy’s managerial duties while Diane handles the gathering of left over food for the food bank and organizes all of the recycling for South’s cafeteria.

Most importantly, both leaders have a passion for students. Neither likes to see a student leave the cafeteria without his/her needs met, Lori Miller further said in her nomination. They take the time to encourage students, and feel that no child should be hungry. If a student misses the customary lunch period, Kathy and Diane share the same approach. Feed them!

With such a formula for success, Lori and the rest of her colleagues could scarcely imagine a work setting without two such hard working and caring supervisors. “Without Kathy’s direction it would be very difficult to provide for the daily needs of the students…, and as you can tell, Diane is a very important
partner in providing for the needs of the students, but also for the needs of the community as well as the earth in the recycling area.”

Kathy Chitwood and Diane Jackson, the MCCSC Board of School Trustees applauds your work ethic and your commitment to supporting our students, nutritionally and emotionally. We are proud to honor you both as two of our shining *Faces of Education* for the 2007-2008 school year. Congratulations!

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*Faces of Education* is a new feature of every regular Board of School Trustees Meeting. It is designed to recognize current MCCSC employees or volunteers, who have made a difference in our school community. Nomination forms can be found at each MCCSC site or on the web at [www.mccsc.edu](http://www.mccsc.edu).