Faces of Education  
August 5, 2008  
Choonhyun Jeon, ESL Coordinator  
Monroe County Community School Corporation  

Our *Faces of Education* honoree this evening is Choonhyun Jeon. Choonhyun currently serves as the English as a Second Language Coordinator for the school corporation. He assists ESL teachers and building administrators with the delivery of instruction and support services to students for whom English is a second language. He is nominated by the Human Resources Department, represented by Asst. Superintendent Peggy Chambers this evening.

Choonhyun began working for Monroe County Community School Corporation as an intern in the ESL Office in 2002, where he has served as a translator and interpreter. He has served as an outreach and data coordinator for the department as well, before taking on his current role three years ago. Choonhyun, who holds double bachelors’ degrees in International Business and Computer Science as well as a math minor, says he brings a lot of his own experiences to his job. A native of Korea, who has also lived in Japan for six years, he understands the many transitions that international families must face. “In addition, I have had plenty of time to work with families personally; I also can see a student’s progress through the data. This (current) job (ESL Coordinator) lets me bring my experiences all together,” Choonhyun said.

The ESL Program has grown tremendously over the years. “It is no longer just ESL instruction; it now includes support services,” he said. However, Choonhyun is very quick to share any credit with ESL teachers and principals. “The quality is all from the teachers,” he said. At the same time, the ESL Coordinator is firmly focused on the beginning of school and students. “There is a lot more to do.” Enrolling and assessing new students always accompanies the start of the school year. Another goal is to make sure that all ESL students, as well as their families, are well acclimated and feel comfortable within MCCSC. Choonhyun is currently working on plans for the Third Annual MCCSC International Family Day coming up on Aug. 23rd at Binford Elementary School. The event has grown every year in size and is an orientation for international families, who want to learn more about the school corporation. International Family Day features include community organization booths, a teen talk session, international cuisine, and information sessions for parents as well as interpreters. Thanks to the efforts of teachers and
support services like International Family Day, ESL survey data shows that parents and students are more content in our school community than ever, Choonhyun said.

Looking forward, Choonhyun said this recognition leaves him nearly speechless. “I will use this as encouragement and will work even harder this year,” he said. While he is humble about his work, his supervisor Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Mary Lovejoy was pleased to have the opportunity to speak about the contributions of her staff member, “It took me little time to recognize how fortunate I am to work with Choonhyun. He is the consummate professional, working tirelessly to improve the instructional program for our ENL students and their families. The annual ENL Orientation Day held each year in August is one of the many examples of Choonhyun’s good work. He and several of our ENL teachers were invited to present at the 2007-2008 ENL Conference held in Indianapolis and our team was very well received. He is very deserving of being one of our Faces in Education, and I am honored to speak on his behalf.”

Choonhyun Jeon, you are an encouragement to all of us. Your commitment to diversity and our international families is an example to be emulated. The MCCSC Board of School Trustees is proud to recognize you as one of our shining Faces of Education. Thank you!

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_Faces of Education_ is a 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).