Our *Faces of Education* honoree this evening is Mr. Jeffry Henderson, who currently serves as the principal of Bloomington High School North. He has been the building leader there since 2005, and he is nominated this evening by Bloomington High School North Teacher and Publications Adviser Ryan Gunterman. In his nomination, Ryan submitted the following words to honor his principal:

“I cannot believe there is another administrator in this state who is more-deserving to serve as a “Face of Education” than Bloomington High School North Principal Jeffry Henderson. Jeff Henderson has provided the perfect atmosphere for student publications, and the journalists that produce them, to succeed. While some principals and superintendents tell the public that the First Amendment is valued and then restrict its practice within the halls of their schools, Jeff actually backs up his talk when it comes to student empowerment. He has made it very clear that the students are the ones dictating the direction of our school, and he has provided them every opportunity to fully participate in, and contribute to, the decisions affecting everyone within the building. That is why his support of the student journalists and their publication is far from surprising.

I am a lucky teacher. I know this. I hear of the stories of my colleagues from other districts who face constant opposition, and even harassment, from their building principals and/or district superintendents. I hope that I would be able to stand strong for my students and principles if such a situation were to ever occur here. However, I have never had to even consider it because of Jeff’s support for everyone’s First Amendment (rights). He has even gone on record in a First Amendment special edition of the newspaper saying “part of teaching responsible journalism requires that students be placed in positions of making decisions regarding the content of the student newspaper.”
He has also shown such support for this adviser’s career and well-being. Not only have I felt comfortable enough to discuss personal issues with Jeff, I know that I can count on him to listen to my questions and concerns about my career. The obvious example of this support is when I decided to apply for a professional leave to complete my master’s in journalism. While I was excited to get such an opportunity, I did not want to take a year hiatus from the student publications. So when I pitched the idea of doing a part-time leave where I would advise the publications first period and take classes during the rest of the day, Jeff showed nothing but support for my enthusiasm.

It’s support such as this that has allowed Bloomington North publications to reach the level of success it currently enjoys. And it’s that position that prevents me from thinking of a better candidate for the “Faces of Education” recognition.”

Mr. Henderson, we are indeed proud to recognize you for your ability to support the voices and aspirations of both your students and staff members. The Monroe County Community School Corporation is fortunate to have you as part of its leadership team. Thank you and congratulations!

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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).