Our *Faces of Education* honoree this evening is Keri Gross. Keri currently serves as the school counselor at Bloomington New Tech High School. She is nominated by the staff at Bloomington New Tech. Keri started her career with the MCCSC as the school counselor at Batchelor Middle School. From there, Keri moved to Bloomington High School North where she worked predominantly with the freshman class. She moved to BNT in the fall of 2008 as one of the original five staff members. Bloomington New Tech High School Principal Alan Veach had the following words to say about Keri’s impact on the school:

> Few people have the opportunity to start a new school, and the task can be both exciting and overwhelming. As one of the founding members of the Bloomington New Tech staff, Keri has had to fill many roles and has been a vital component to the New Tech team. I could not ask for a better teammate in this endeavor. She is always pushing to ensure that our programming meets the needs of all students. Keri and her team met with each of the members of the founding class prior to the opening of school. She has continued this commitment to her students by meeting individually with each freshman student and parent to create a four-year plan. Keri is dedicated to ensuring each student at New Tech is equipped with a post-secondary plan that will lead them to success in the field of choice.

It is the students who benefit most from Keri’s dedication and passion for her job. This is best described by one of Keri’s New Tech students:

> When I think of Ms. Gross, the first thing that comes to mind is that #1 smile she always has glued on her face and somehow, that same smile is ALWAYS genuine. Ms. Gross is a miracle worker when it comes to schedule changes or social problems or figuring out how to make your high school career best for YOU. She is always there, and her door is always open. Whether your problem is big or small, she is there to listen and help you through. She has never doubted the burdens that I am experiencing. I know I'm a teenager and every bad hair day seems like the world is crashing down around me, but Ms. Gross is there to understand and put things in perspective for me, to hand me a 'comb and hairspray', so to speak. Thank you, Ms. Gross, for being a wonderful and supportive counselor.

Keri Gross, thank you for your dedication to the students of the MCCSC. Your hard work and passion to ensuring those students are not only cared for on a daily basis but are prepared for life. Congratulations! You are most deserving of being recognized as one of MCCSC’s *Faces of Education* honorees.

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