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Carrollton, Carrollton Oaks staff members get top awards

A third-grade teacher at Carrollton Oaks Elementary School and a teacher assistant at Carrollton Elementary School were surprised with the news during Pattonville's District Appreciation Night on May 6 that they had earned two of Pattonville's highest honors.

Michelle Wagner, who teaches at Carrollton Oaks, was named the Pattonville School District Teacher of the Year and will represent the district in the Missouri Teacher of the Year program. **Rommel McDonald**, who assists teachers at Carrollton, was named Pattonville's Support Staff Employee of the Year.

Wagner, who was also named Pattonville Elementary Teacher of the Year, began her teaching career in Pattonville in 1995 at Pattonville Heights Middle School. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and her master's from Lindenwood University. McDonald has worked in Pattonville since 1998 as a teacher assistant working with students and staff. She strives to be a positive role model for the students at Carrollton.

Other teachers honored at the appreciation event included: **Paul Simpkins**, a social studies and reading teacher at Holman Middle School, who was named Middle School Teacher of the Year in Pattonville; and **Janet Kuhn**, a family and consumer science teacher at Pattonville High School, who was named High School Teacher of the Year. Finalists for Elementary Teacher of the Year were **Mary Jo Beaulieu**, a Rose Acres teacher, and **Candace Tarman**, a teacher at Carrollton. Finalists for Middle School Teacher of the Year were **Michelle Dodds**, a science teacher, and **Peter Schmoeker**, a foreign language teacher, both at Pattonville Heights Middle School. Finalists for High School Teacher of the Year were **Leonard Sullivan** and **Leslie Scoopmire**, both social studies teachers at Pattonville High School.

Finalists for the Support Staff of the Year award included **Steve Ferndo**, a custodian at Remington Traditional School, and **Mary Beth Kretschmer**, a nurse at Rose Acres Elementary School. Semifinalists for the award were: **Gina Hermsen**, a nurse at Holman Middle School, and **Charlene Mair**, a clerical assistant at Pattonville High School.

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