

SCSBA Champions for Public Education Nomination & Award Criteria Form

Name of School District Board Anderson School District Four Date: July 10, 2014

Name of person, organization, business, etc. being nominated:

Mrs. Teri Gilstrap

If nominee is an organization or business, name of key contact person: _____

Address of organization, business or individual being nominated: 136 Grand Oak Circle, Pendleton SC 29670

Telephone Number of nominee: 864.934.5007

Board member/district staff completing form: Dr. Lee D'Andrea, Superintendent Phone Number: 864-403.2000

District size Small (up to 2,999 students) Medium (3,000 – 8,999) Large (9,000+)
(for demographic purposes only)

Board chairman's signature: Thomas Robbins
(certifies the school board's support of nomination)

Criteria

Tell how your nominee meets the criteria listed below.

Use no more than one 8½ x 11 sheet for each criterion. Type double-spaced with a 250-word maximum per page.

Address each of the four criteria concisely and factually, with specific examples. Provide your nominee's name in the upper right-hand corner of each sheet.

1. Shows leadership in support either of ongoing or special programs authorized by the school board or SCSBA.
2. Actively demonstrates concern and effectively works for the betterment of the school district or for public schools statewide.
3. Understands public education's importance to democratic society and does his/her/its part to inspire support for quality public schools within the community or state.
4. "Makes a difference" for the entire school district or schools statewide because of his/her/its involvement.

Email form along with narrative and supporting documents to Debbie Elmore at delmore@scsba.org or mail to SCSBA, 111 Research Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

Champions for Education Award Nomination

1. Shows leadership in support either of ongoing or special programs authorized by the school board or SCSBA.

Teri Cox Gilstrap is the Existing Industries Manager for the Anderson County Office of Economic Development. She has over 18 years of experience in workforce development and community relations. She graduated from a public high school in Anderson School District 1 and then earned an Economics Degree from Clemson University. Teri has served on the District Parent Council and District Strategic Planning Committee. She is also a member of the Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Regional Education Center Board. She uses her professional training and role in multiple ways to support and enhance College and Career Readiness in our schools.

When our high school principal wanted to take the teachers on tours of local manufacturing businesses, Mrs. Gilstrap made all the contacts, set up the schedules and met the group for the tour. Later, she followed-up when guidance counselors asked to arrange tours for students. She clearly has strong networks to existing industries such as Michelin, Glen Raven, Bosch, and Walgreens. Our guidance counselors had a session with multiple Human Resource Officers to hear about the characteristics and skills needed for the respective businesses. She enthusiastically opens doors, develops programs and professional development for our school district. The enthusiasm and leadership she shows for workforce development is contagious and inspiring.

2. Actively demonstrates concern and effectively works for the betterment of the school district or for public schools statewide.

For the past two years, Teri Gilstrap has worked tirelessly to establish Anderson County as a Work Ready Community. She has spoken to parent groups, participated in Career

Awareness Days, provided professional development to teachers and been a spokesperson at community events. Her understanding of Work Keys far precedes the recent legislation to include and mandate every high school student take this assessment. Her message has been that every high school student needs documentation that he/she is college and career ready. Work Keys is one of these documentations.

Teri and her husband are the parents of a son with special needs. As a parent and a professional, she is deeply concerned and committed to enhancing the opportunities for every child in our district and in South Carolina; she knows that through Work Keys assessments, many children who may not be able to graduate with a high school diploma can earn documentation of a level of workforce readiness. For Teri, it is an economic development issue but it is also a very personal commitment to the betterment of education for all students.

3. Understands public education's importance to democratic society and does his/her/its part to inspire support for quality public schools within the community or state.

As a product of public education and with a son in public education, Teri has first-hand knowledge of the importance of public education in our society. She speaks frequently to existing industries in Anderson County and continuously supports our schools, while also building support through inclusion. She frequently brings community and education together in settings, such as Chamber of Commerce or seminars or Align SC, in order to build understanding and support. Teri knows and communicates well the very dependent relationship between quality public schools and economic development. Taking this one step further, Teri often tells students, educators and community how closely economic development and democratic society are interwoven.

4. “Makes a difference” for the entire school district or schools statewide because of his/her/its involvement.

Teri Gilstrap “Makes a difference” in Anderson School District Four through her very intense involvement in college and career readiness, both as a professional and as a parent. She is positive, supportive and encouraging; while she also seeks ways to continually improve the opportunities and understanding for students, teachers and staff. Our Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Career Showcase is now an integral part of the fall career awareness and exploration plans; her work on this committee was instrumental in Anderson School District 4’s success with the Career Showcase.

And without hesitation, she goes the extra mile for the school district. When a group of adults and students from our Sister City, Stornoway, Scotland and its school, The Nicholson Institute, visited last spring, Teri Gilstrap made all the arrangements for them to have tours of two manufacturing facilities. Our global friends loved seeing how education and industry work together.

Anderson School District Four has better opportunities and experiences in College and Career Readiness for students because of the work of Teri Gilstrap. We are proud of her and very thankful for her being on our team!