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Leona Hefner

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ANNOUNCING MRA's TEACHER OF THE ISSUE

Leona Hefner
Coordinator, Reading Diagnostic Center
Portage Public Schools



This month's "Teacher of the Issue" has been nominated by her colleagues in the Homer L.J. Carter Council of the MRA. Her name is Leona Hefner; she is coordinator of the Reading Diagnostic Center for Portage Public Schools and she is, according to her colleagues, "a teacher who leads by example."

Leona has been in education for twenty-six years. In addition to her twelve years at Portage, she has also served as an elementary teacher, an elementary principal, a supervisor of student teachers and a staff member of the Reading Center and Clinic at Western Michigan University. In addition, she has long been involved in professional organizations and special projects and is presently serving as secretary of the Michigan Reading Association.

Leona is a teacher who is truly gifted in working with people. She has the ability to get maximum performance from them while building good self concepts. Students have such a high respect for her that they will do anything asked of them. She is gifted in developing a good diagnostic approach to her cases and in creating a high success factor with her students.

She constantly strives to find new approaches for working with her students, who in many cases represent the more reluctant learner. She is keyed to the best teaching techniques available and has the intelligence to study new and/or complex ideas, evaluate their usefulness, and make recommendations as to their future. She works extremely well with teachers and parents and has a warm loving manner with all her friends, student or adult.

As Mr. Len Holmes, a Portage principal states: "Leona is certainly a most capable, sincere, dependable and loyal person. It is a true privilege to have this professional to work with for she is truly one of the most outstanding educators." Congratulations, Leona. The MRA is happy to honor you as the "Teacher of the Issue."

(Editor's Note: We want to recognize outstanding reading educators. Send your nomination to Dr. Gerald Duffy, 201 Erickson Hall, MSU, E. Lansing, MI 48824 or to Barbara Jacoby, Ingham ISD, 2630 West Howell Road, Mason, MI 48854.)