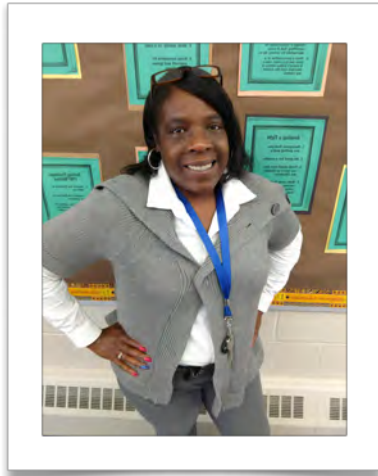


THE PARA PERSPECTIVE



Volume 1, Issue 3 Hartford Federation of Paraeducators, AFT Local 2221, CLC, AFL-CIO August 2019

Kelly Harris-Johnson 2020 Hartford Public Schools Paraeducator of the Year



We are so proud of you, Kelly! Now that's affirmation of the hard work that you do. For those who don't know, Kelly is an Inside Suspension Paraeducator at Thirman Milner School located in Hartford's North End. Her love and dedication to the students of the Hartford Public School system made it possible for her to receive such an honor. She constantly demonstrates professionalism, commitment to her job, and lasting relationships with the Milner community. These characteristics that she possesses earns her the respect of other paras, students, administrators, and parents, alike.

Kelly will be recognized at the Paraeducator Development and Leadership Symposium and Recognition of the 2020 District Paraeducators of the Year on Monday, October 28, from 8:15am to 3:00pm at the Red Lion in Cromwell.

Thank you, Kelly, for representing Hartford's paraeducators.

Looking Back

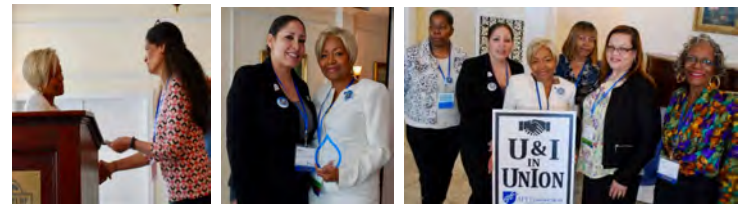
In less than a week it'll be back to work as usual, but before we go into the present, here's a few events that happened during the 2018-2019 school year.

AFT CT 2019 Convention

Delegates travelled to the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on May 18 to attend the AFT Connecticut 2019 convention. Even though it was business first, the day was filled with raffles, awards being received and networking with fellow Brothers and Sisters.

Our very own **Syeda H. Naqvi** received the George C. Springer Scholarship. She will be using the scholarship to assist with her tuition. Another one of ours, **Marta Shepard**, received an award for submitting testimony and having her voice be heard. Gwen Douglas was awarded also.

A very surprised **Shellye Davis** was the recipient of the Joseph H. Soifer Award, presented by Marta, a representation of her contributions to the union (locally and nationally) and community.



2019 National Paraeducator Day

On April 3rd, paraeducators who have been selected by their schools were invited to City Hall. All of the paras who were present, along with our E-Board, had the privilege to witness Mayor Luke Bronin's presentation of a proclamation affirming April 3 as "Paraeducator Appreciation Day" in Hartford. It was cause for celebration, being honored for all that we do.

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End of the Year Party

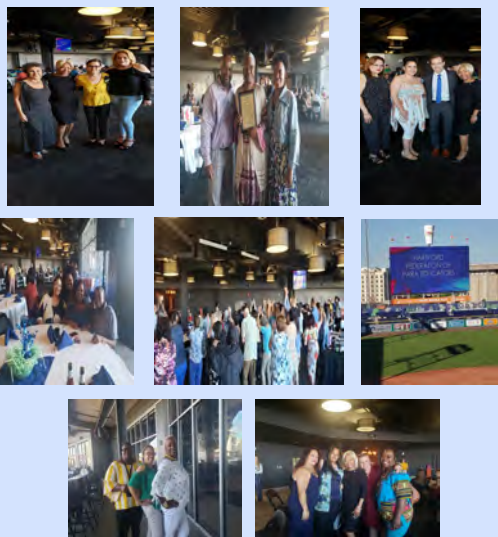
Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this year's party but as usual I heard that you were partying and dancing like the rock stars that you are, mingling and dancing with one another to your hearts content. What a wonderful way, as always, to wind down the school year - especially with cool libations and great conversations.

To all of HFP Retirees this year, wishing you prosperity on this new chapter of your lives:

- Juanita Burney
- Nydia Cajiga
- Gladys Concepcion
- Gwenath Douglas
- Christine Williams
- Maria Rosa-Figueroa
- Aida Gonzalez
- Debra Oakes
- Julia Perez

* We will continue to strive forward; thank you for all that you do*

-Christine



Betty Gadson Scholarships

Each year the Scholarship Committee (Nina Gonzalez and Sonia Talbert) selects High School Seniors who are the children of Hartford Public Schools' paraeducators.

CONGRATULATIONS, RECIPIENTS:

- Taneja Martin** (*Paula McDonald*)
Eastern Connecticut State University
- Taelor McDonald** (*Tyasha Weathersby*)
University of Saint Joseph
- Isiah Thornton** (*Christine Smith*)
Central Connecticut State University

The mayor Re-Tweeted AFT Connecticut's photos, saying:

"Thank you to all of our #Hartford #paraprofessionals who do incredible work every day!"



City Hall with Mayor Bronin, E-Board, 2019 Paraeducators of the Year



Proclamation



Paras being acknowledged

Co-Presidents Corner

To all returning and new paraeducators, I hope you have been able to relax, enjoy the sun, and take time for yourself.

We have a busy year in front of us. Your input and participation are needed. We hope to see you at meetings. Please do not hesitate to call, or email, with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

Here's to a rewarding and productive year! Thank you for all you do - you are appreciated!

In Solidarity and Union,
Shellye Davis

Welcome back to a new school year. Hope you had time to relax, invigorate and rest.

We want to confirm that we will always stand with and by you — our members — in the fight for the rights and benefits you are entitled to. Never be afraid to call us; we are here to represent you for a better working environment.

I want to invite you to attend board meetings and union activities as this is your Union. There is strength in numbers and together, we accomplish more.

Hope everyone has a wonderful start of the new year.

In Solidarity,
Jackie Aviles