

+ May 9, 2012

Schools

HELPING STUDENTS TRANSITION



Gayna Jobe,
teacher
at Cooper
Home
Learning
for Living.
COURTESY
PHOTO

Relationships vital to teacher's success

Q: What are your top five school supplies and why?

A: Our school is set up in a house so our supplies are a bit different from most schools. We need our planners to plan each day. We use the city bus, so a bus pass is a must. We also use the usual amount of markers, paper and copier paper. My own personal favorite school supply is markers because I love all the cool colors Sharpie pens come in now.

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

A: I felt like I can make a difference in the lives of students.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: I get to be in the community of Fort Collins and work on real-life skills to help students achieve independence in their lives. The Fort Collins community is so supportive of students regardless of their level of ability. I really love that we live in an inclusive city. I have the privilege of helping students learn how to access this great city where we live. We ride the city bus; we work out at the Northside Atlan Recreation Center; we volunteer at various sites throughout the city; and some of the students have paid positions with in the community. The district also is very supportive of the programs for 18- to 21-year-old students. I feel like I have the paraprofessional support to make the program successful. A college professor once told me that the most important people in a school building are the secretary, the custodial staff and the paraprofessionals. He told me to make sure you become friends with them. I took that advice to heart and

Q&A

GAYNA F. JOBE

School: Cooper Home Learning
4 Living

Grade Level: 18- to 21-year-olds
with disabilities/Transition

Teaching area: Transition

Experience Level: 20 years

Age: 51

realize how true it was. If I didn't have the support of my staff, the program would not be successful. In my particular case, it does take a village because we are in the community to help each student become as successful as they can be.

Q: The worst?

A: The paperwork. I realize it is necessary for accountability and to show student progress and growth, but it definitely is not the "fun" part of my job.

Q: What's your teaching strategy?

A: The best advice a principal gave me was to develop relationships with your students and show them you care, otherwise they won't care about what you have to teach. I also believe that each student can achieve, and I have high expectations for each of them, regardless of their disabilities.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges facing education today?

A: Teachers are faced with the challenge of educating students where the world and technology change so fast that knowledge is easy to access, but the love of learning is harder to instill.