

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camden Student Wins Big in Writing Competition

Heather Boyd a student at Camden Junior High was recently awarded with 1st Place in the West division of the annual Utrust Make a Difference Writing Competition.

Utrust Administrator, Dr. Dan Tollett, and Kristi Coleman, Utrust Director of Finance and Administration presented the awards on Thursday, December 13. Boyd received a check in the amount of \$500 for her entry.

The writing contest was designed as a part of the Employees Appreciation Program. Both students and adults were encouraged to submit stories about the school system employee who has made a difference in their life.

Heather's story describes Jennifer Shifflet a band teacher and expresses appreciation for things such as "believing in me and pushing me to be my best". "Mrs. Shifflet believes that every student-no matter his or her education level or background-can succeed", Boyd says. She also writes "Mrs. Shifflet is a perfect role model because of her bright optimism, the unbelievable effort she gave to each student, her readiness for anything and her ability to see the connection between teaching and friendship."



Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes to winners across the state for entries like these about school employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of students.

"Many school employees across this state go above and beyond what is required of them every day," said Dr. Tollett. "We want their stories to be written and celebrated. We ask every person who submits an essay to share it with the person about whom it is written. It makes a big difference in staff morale. It also makes a difference in students' lives when they learn to recognize and express appreciation to others. We want to see students develop and display an attitude of gratitude," he continued.

Utrust is a statewide organization that assists local school boards, administrators and students to recognize and appreciate school employees. Utrust sponsors the School Employee Appreciation Program that includes celebrations throughout each school year to honor school employee groups. Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes ranging from \$1000 to \$100 to winners of the writing competition across the state.

These special stories will be permanently added to the Utrust Make A Difference Library.

Visit www.tnuct.com for more information or to read the essays.