

Teachers Make a Difference

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Teachers who make a difference

Stephanie Hunt



*NSTU president Shelley Morse presented Stephanie Hunt with her **Teachers Make a Difference** award during Education Week on April 21. Shown from left to right: Bluenose Academy NSTU rep Bev Langley, vice principal Raymond Aucoin, Teachers Make a Difference Award winner Stephanie Hunt, NSTU president Shelley Morse and vice-president public relations/communications for the Lunenburg County Local Barb Chapman.*

Stephanie Hunt has spent her 18 years of teaching on the South Shore of Nova Scotia, and now she is this year's *Teachers Make A Difference* award recipient chosen for the South Shore Regional School Board.

"I would always see the advertisements on the television and we have had many discussions around our staff room tables about what an honour it would be to chosen," says Hunt of NSTU's *Teachers Make A Difference* campaign/program.

This is the third time Hunt has been nominated as a teacher who makes a difference. She is one of 227 NSTU members nominated this year, and one of 10 randomly selected to receive the award and \$300 toward her school's breakfast or library program.

Throughout her teaching career she has worked with students at Centre Consolidated School, the Lunenburg Academy, Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School, Gold River/ Western Shore School and now, Bluenose Academy. "I began my career teaching at the elementary level teaching French, art, a variety of classroom positions and Resource," she says. "I spent most of these years teaching Grade 6, but for the past three years I have been teaching English and Health at the middle school level at Bluenose Academy." Hunt currently teaches Grade 7.

Hunt and her students were surprised by a visit from Bluenose Academy principal Denise Dodge-Baker and NSTU president Shelley Morse during class on April 21, in

which she was presented with her *Teachers Make A Difference* award. NSTU Shelley Morse read to students what her nominator said about how she makes a difference.

"Mrs. Hunt was by far the best teacher for both of my children. Her methods of teaching are the greatest for my children. Her mild manner, but go-get-it attitude was exactly what my children needed. One is in her class this year and is already excelling. My other child had Mrs. Hunt a few years ago and he did amazingly well—better than any teacher he ever had."

Hunt was also amazed that she was being acknowledged for her teaching. "It has been an honour to be recognized for what I do—especially because I really don't feel like I go above and beyond. I personally feel I am doing my job," she comments. "I am fortunate to work with great students, staff and administration who make my job easy."

Even feeling this way she sees the significance of the appreciation. "It is worthy to celebrate our strengths and be recognized for the work we do, especially as noted by our students and parents," she affirms.

She also believes that celebrating teachers' work is imperative. "Often there are so many negative things put forth in the media with regards to teachers and the education system. It is important to recognize the amazing things teachers are doing every day in our individual schools—things I see every day as I work with a strong staff and group of dedicated professionals," she observes. "Great things are happening with our children, great strides are being made in education and we are engaging and inspiring our youth daily. These things should be celebrated!"

[From The Teacher, May 2015, Volume 54 Number 7, Page 17 © NSTU 2016]