

Shirley Redmond
Helen Wise Friend of Education Award

Given for a lifetime of significant contributions to public education, DSEA's Helen Wise Award goes this year to one of our own, Shirley Redmond. "Still waters run deep" in Shirley's case, very deep indeed. A paraprofessional in the Colonial School District for 24 years, she retired last year after several years as vice president and president of CPA, during which time she let her colleagues and the Colonial Administration know that each para possesses the ability to have a positive impact on student learning.

Often the invisible members of DSEA, working with the often-invisible students in our schools, paras found an effective advocate in Shirley Redmond. Consistently promoting the need for professional development that would meet the needs of their unique students, the Colonial Paras Assoc. is now a beacon for empowered employees who are respected as professionals who help their students grow and learn. Through collaboration with the district, CPA also now has an improved evaluation form, and a special liaison committee that meets regularly to tackle difficult issues through problem-solving techniques, with successful results.

In her community, she, often with husband Ed, has become an iconic volunteer for students, in the Girl Scouts, Suburban Little League, Special Olympics, Parent/Teacher Associations, and William Penn High School Music, Arts and Sports programs.

Praised by other paras, teachers and administrators alike as a professional, compassionate, inspiring, leader, DSEA is proud to make sure that Shirley Redmond's legacy is more than visible, but celebrated and honored.