

I would like to nominate Robert Forster for the ARKSTE Unsung Hero award.

Robert is a network technician at the Cabot School District and has worked in the district for 7 years. He moved to Arkansas from Michigan mostly for employment opportunities, but partly to escape the cold Michigan winters.

Robert came to the district with a working knowledge of security camera systems and was immediately assigned the task to redesign and upgrade the district's camera system to include good coverage on all campuses. Robert transformed the antiquated and woefully inadequate system to one with full perimeter coverage and night vision at each campus. His selection of software was also key. Administrators who need to view the video are able to do so without assistance because of how well Robert organized the system.

As a result of this work, Robert has assisted school administrators, school resource officers, local law enforcement and the FBI with the gathering of video evidence when an incident happens at or near one of our campuses. Frequently those efforts are after normal working hours or on weekends.

Robert has also been instrumental in the installation of network wiring for several campuses in the district. His well organized attention to detail serve him (and the district) well in this capacity. He is very skilled in organizing a wiring closet or head-in room. His work in this area has made it possible for us to deliver wired and wireless resources to every classroom in the district.

Robert's initiative and spirit of dedication is evidenced by his latest work adventure. Robert is in the process of transitioning from his current duties to another role in the tech department. As retirement for a co-worker approaches, Robert asked to move into the soon-to-be vacated position. This presents a whole new set of challenges. Not only does Robert have to learn about the new duties, he is also training his replacement for the duties for which he was responsible.

Robert is also active in the community. He spends many fall and spring Saturdays coaching a local flag football team. In fact, Robert was so involved with the community's flag football program that they convinced him to take a position of leadership. He now serves as the director and has applied his organizational skills and leadership qualities to the position. The community flag football program is now flourishing and involves over 350 school aged kids in the community.

Robert is quiet and unassuming. He diligently and effectively works his daily tasks without requiring close supervision. He is able to effectively communicate with administration, teachers, peers, students and community members. His actions both at work and in the community speak well of his character and dedication. He is truly worthy of this recognition.

Regards,

Kendal