

2012 Cornerstone Award Inductee

Jodelle Christenson

Jodelle "Jodi" Christenson is a 30-year educator, 20 of them in service with Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools at Goshen Lane Elementary School.

Previously she had served at Jersey Elementary School in the Licking Heights School District where she had been designated *Most Outstanding Young Educator*. In 1994, the Goshen Lane staff designated her as *Teacher of the Year*. Christenson retired in 2005 from Goshen Lane.

Christenson was nominated by Charlotte Secret, a retired Goshen Lane Elementary secretary.

"Jodi's unparalleled caring demeanor has always amazed me," Secret wrote. "Her dedication to the teaching of young children with a level of compassion that exceeds all expectations was exceptional." She also praised Jodi for her generosity as she often purchased gloves, coats, shoes or whatever was needed for students in need.

During Christenson's tenure, from 1986-1987, she served as a Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Scholar lecturer for the *Introduction of the Ohio Reading Recovery Project* series at The Ohio State University. As a career long member of the Ohio Education Association and the National Education Association, she also served on the Gahanna-Jefferson Education Association's scrip committee (tuition reimbursement) for several years.

Asked of her most vivid memory as a Gahanna-Jefferson educator, Christenson shared how it always warmed her heart to see a struggling student suddenly grasp a concept or lesson by continuing to push on and not giving up. She also proudly shared how a former student, now a doctor, visited and thanked her for "planting the seeds of greatness." She also shared a call she received from a tow truck thanking her for teaching him to "never give up" and how it led him earning an award at work.