

More than a Teacher

Brown Wins “Excellence in Civic Engagement Award”

After dedicating 27 years of her life to the greater cause of education, a teacher’s career is coming to the perfect end by receiving an award for “Excellence in Civic Engagement” for a Rowan County teacher.

Lisa Bellamy-Brown, 48, has lived in Morehead all her life and is a retiring 6th grade geography and reading teacher at Rowan County Middle School. She was



nominated for the award, which was sponsored by the Morehead-Rowan County Chamber of Commerce and the MSU Center for Regional Engagement, by former 6th grade student Austin Barker.

“I used to be scared to go to school,” recalls Barker. “But she is just more understanding than other teachers and she made me feel better about coming to school.”

Unlike most teachers, Brown would visit each future student before the first day of class to start building close relationships.

“I tried to diminish the students’ anxiety of going to school,” says Brown. “To me the relationship to my students went beyond teaching.”

Barker says Brown is someone who has changed peoples’ lives and taught students the importance of caring for people and treating others with respect.

“She explained things in a special way and many students acknowledged she is a good teacher,” Barker says.



Brown says raising five children of her own helped her become a better teacher. Having children got Brown involved in community activities such as watching her children compete in sports, and becoming a soccer and basketball coach herself.

Now that Brown is close to retiring, she is unsure of her future plans. “It is different when the time actually gets here,” Brown says. “It will be a difficult decision to make.”

Either way, Brown’s former students know that what she cares about is being more than just a teacher for them.

“To win the award made me feel special,” Brown says. “That’s what teaching is all about.”