

Tim Griffith: Perseverance

Last year the Student Assistance Program coordinators throughout Lee's Summit School District met to discuss ways to improve the data collection system for the Student Assistance Program (SAP). Tim Griffith represented the technology department at the meetings. It soon became apparent that this was more than another job for Tim to complete. He invested his time, expertise and belief in the value of every child into solving the problems. As one counselor stated, "Tim, I can tell that your heart is in this project."

After describing our long wish list to Tim, he concluded that what had been previously using to record and collect data would not be adequate. He approached his department, and with their support, began developing an entirely new web based program. He poured over forms that we sent him, met with the SAP coordinators many times, and spent over 60 continuous hours with a consultant brought in to help him develop the program. In the evening and on weekends he worked to make all of this real! In September of 2009, Tim unveiled the new program to the applause and excitement of SAP coordinators, building administrators and district administrators. Dr. Jeff Miller, Director of Student Services, summarized the impact of Tim's work when he said that during his five years holding this position he had never seen such positive feedback for a new program. Many people would have considered their job to be done once the program was introduced. Not Tim! He has attended SAP building team meetings, faculty meetings, and administrative meetings to ensure that we have the support we need. He continues to improve and add features to the data collection system. Dr. Susan Guental said, "Tim's 'perseverance' is beyond anything I have experienced during the 18 years I have worked with the Lee's Summit School District."

Susan A. Guental

Student Assistance Program District Coordinator.