

Quintana Neely

School Related Support Employee of the Year

Quintana Neely has served as a paraprofessional at Avon Park High School for the past ten years. Her primary responsibilities include greeting and assisting all incoming visitors, answering telephone calls, making school-wide announcements, and covering classrooms as necessary. Ms. Neely was awarded her Associate of Arts degree from Warner University in 2015. Aside from her “normal” daily duties, Ms. Neely, or “Q” as she is fondly referred, eagerly stepped in to manage the SmartFind Express sub calling system for Avon Park High, a task that consistently requires her attention outside of her contracted day. In a time where substitutes are slim, she maintains a 95% classroom file rate.



Jennifer Rhymes, Mid-Florida Credit Union; Quintana Neely, Highlands County School Related Support Employee of the Year; Wally Cox, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Neely is a true professional, wears a warm, bright smile, and possesses a calm demeanor when she works with others. She has a student-first attitude. According to principal, Tealy Williams, her “youth exuberance [as freshman class co-sponsor] has resulted in an increased number of student participating in some key school events such as, the homecoming parade, pitchfork games,” and community events held in Avon Park. He adds, “Ms. Neely is serving the at-risk students of her community” through the SFSC College Reach-out Program (CROP), a statewide project designed to encourage, motivate, and prepare low income and educationally disadvantaged students for postsecondary education. “Ms. Neely facilitates seminars, organizes experimental learning activities, and personally mentors CROP participants,” boasts Mr. Williams. Ms. Neely is also an active, key member of the Avon Park Community Awareness Task Force where she has been instrumental in outreach initiatives and support for the community’s elderly and youth populations.