

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Vermont
Teacher of the Year 2019-2020 Grades 9-12

Douglas Heavisides is the Director of Hartford Area Career & Technology Center in White River Junction. He is sponsored by White River VFW Post 2571 and it's auxiliary.

October 30, 2019

VFW Teacher of the Year Nomination

re: Doug Heavisides, Director of the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center

He is a visionary, passionate about kids and education, and gets things done. Doug is constantly looking to the future and carefully crafting plans that will improve the HACTC, He has given tools to his teachers to create a culture of high expectations for student behavior and academics in their classes.

Students are engaged because they feel connected to the adults here, especially with as they affectionately call him. Every day, Doug greets every student by name as they get off the bus or as he visits classrooms. Students stop by his office to grab a snack and to chat with him, sometimes about the mundane, but often with issues they don't feel able to talk to anyone else about. He provides a safe place for them to vent and ask for advice. He offers guidance and works relentlessly to get them to a better place.

He is also deeply involved with the surrounding community. When he sees a need, like mentoring middle school students or having teachers trained in active shooter response, Doug gets these things done and done well- He is not only looking to improve the HACTC, but also the entire community surrounding the school.

Perhaps even more telling about Doug is the work that he does behind the scenes. He shields his staff from conflicts with parents: the police, the budget, the district, the state that can often arise in running a school. In doing so, he allows the teachers to do their job and be with students. It seems impossible that one person can do so much for so many. Doug recognizes that his dynamic personality would be hard for someone to replicate. As he looks to the future, he is putting systems in place so that the school can continue to be successful once he is no longer there-

The HACTC would not be what it is without Doug Heavisides' leadership. He cares deeply about the school, its students, and its staff. We all believe in his vision and trust that he is the right direction.

