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EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR, TEAM AWARD HONOREES ANNOUNCED AT COUNTY AWARDS NIGHT

NEWTON, NC – Catawba County Purchasing Manager Debbie Anderson has been named Catawba County's 2017 Employee of the Year. Anderson earned distinction for her role in coordinating a diverse array of needs with multiple departments and vendors throughout the Catawba County Justice Public Safety Center expansion project.

Anderson received the honor during the County's Annual Awards Night November 2 at Catawba Valley Community College's Tarlton Complex. She has been employed with Catawba County for 25 years.

As stated in her nomination, "Debbie consistently exemplifies exceptional leadership and direction day in and day out as a department manager and co-worker. She is a shining example of true professionalism, and her invaluable involvement in the current Justice Center expansion is a prime example of her importance to the success of its ongoing progress and soon completion.

"Debbie continues to keep all the internal departments and external entities working on this extensive project focused and on task. Debbie is like the hub of a wheel. She is the stabilizing point where all the elements come together. Without her resolve, purchasing prowess, encouragement, business insight, can-do attitude and personal motivation, this important project would suffer greatly. She consistently goes above and beyond."

Six other employees were nominated for 2017 Catawba County Employee of the Year. They included Jessica Ford, Program Manager, Social Services; Jonathan Greer, Landfill & Utilities Project Manager, Utilities & Engineering; Amy McCauley, Communications & Marketing Director, County Manager's Office; Daniel McDonough, Paramedic/Crew Chief, Emergency Medical Services; Lisa Royal, recently retired Fiscal Analyst, Finance; and Randy Triplett, Senior Real Estate Appraiser, Tax Revaluation.

The evening also featured the presentation of Catawba County Team Awards, which honor groups of employees whose combined efforts improve County services. A panel of judges in the government field, all independent of Catawba County, awarded this year's recognition to three teams.

The Emergency Response Predictive Analysis team, comprised of employees from the County's Geospatial Information Services and Emergency Services divisions, was recognized for developing an in-house simulation program that more efficiently predicts future Emergency Medical Services budget and service needs based on EMS response patterns.

The Revaluation Land Pricing Wizards, comprised of employees from the County's Tax and Technology divisions, was recognized for developing a land pricing coding system that significantly reduces the amount of time spent assessing residential land parcel values.

The Teen Up team, comprised of staff from Social Services, was recognized for a pilot program connecting Teen Up youth with paid volunteer positions at local businesses to develop employability and financial self-sufficiency skills.

The five other teams nominated for the award are the Catawba County Public Health Safety Committee, Social Services' Advocates for Children in Education, Catawba County's Innovation Team, the Women, Infants and Children Child Health Outreach Program, and Public Health's Immunization Coordination and Assessment Team.

Several employees were recognized for local, state and national achievements, including four National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards, two NACo Brilliant Ideas awards, and honors from the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information & Analysis, American Heart Association, Library Journal, International Association of Arson Investigators/NC Chapter, North Carolina Public Library Directors Association, and the Government Finance Officers Association. Thirty-one employees who retired in the past year were honored, along with 146 employees who have served the County from five to thirty years.

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PHOTO CUTLINE: Catawba County Manager Mick Berry congratulates Purchasing Manager Debbie Anderson on being named the County's 2017 Employee of the Year. Credit: Catawba County.

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