

2017 PACTESP PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT

Direct Career and Technical Special Needs Support Person of the Year



York County School of Technology (YCST) is a comprehensive career and technical high school that serves 1700 full-time students in grades 9-12. **Linda Rambo** manages one of the largest high school Special Education departments in the state of Pennsylvania. Her department consists of 17 teachers, 13 Lincoln Intermediate Unit (LIU) staff, two LIU psychologists, an Assistant Supervisor of Special Education, and a dedicated secretary. Her department, year in and year out, serves the special needs of over 450 students. Her outreach and ability to facilitate school cooperation spans across 14 sending school districts who entrust Linda and her team with the needs and future success of their students throughout their high school careers.

Linda has a strong belief in career and technical education and how it can serve the special education population. She has spent nearly three decades working with the staff and students at YCST. During this time, she has served many roles. As a learning support teacher, she instructed special education students in biology. She served as the support room teacher, where she worked with learning support students in their technical fields. Linda and the technical education teachers have collaborated to ensure that they are implementing best practices into daily lessons and she has spent countless hours working with all teachers to promote meaningful practices into their lessons and curriculum. Linda was also an assistant academy leader; she worked directly with the technical teachers to develop budgets, curriculum and helped organize meetings and worked with Occupational Advisory Council members. As Linda transitioned from teacher to coach to department chair for the special education department, she took on additional responsibilities. The special education department is the largest academic program at YCST. Linda eventually transitioned to supervisor of special education. Her attitude towards career and technical education and special education is infectious. The department over the past six years has stabilized due to her leadership and willingness to give students and teachers the opportunity to succeed.

Her accomplishments are far too many to list, but her efforts are felt throughout York County and the surrounding community. Each year during open house, there is a line of former students looking for Linda to share their life stories with her. Many of them want to take the time to thank her for all of her efforts when they were students at YCST. Her nourishment as a mentor and leader has developed many of the young teachers. Linda has an open door policy. It does not matter if it is a personal or professional matter; she is always willing to take the time to meet the needs of her staff members. Lastly, Linda believes in career and technical education and knows the profound impact it can have on the students and the community. Linda is an exceptional leader and even better person.

Linda was nominated by Brett Frey, Special Education Department Chair and Karen Lenz, Special Needs Supervisor, Steel Center for Career and Technical Education.