

## 2019 PACTESP PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT

### ***Indirect Provider of Major Support Services and Contributions to the Field of Career and Technical Special Needs Education***



As transition coordinator and a member of the Northumberland Transition Coordinating Council, **Michele Erdman** has established personal and professional relationships with agency and school representatives. She is knowledgeable of programs and services that may benefit the students that she serves. As a tireless worker, Michele quickly emerged into a leadership role with the group. She coordinates and facilitates transition clinics for students with disabilities. The clinics are interagency meetings that provide opportunities for students and families to meet representatives that may offer supports and services to students as they approach life after high school. Her skill as a facilitator creates networks of support for students and is recognized regionally.

Michele has worked in transition for 23 years. For 19 of those years, she has been the transition coordinator for Shikellamy High School, one of the participating schools for SUN Area Technical Institute. While this position has changed over the years from full time transition to transition and co-teaching, the quality of the transition program has never faltered, in fact, it has continually improved and expanded and changed with the requirements and knowledge in the field. She has single-handedly developed this program, adapting to financial restrictions, changes in emphases and availability of programs.

Doing what is best for the student and for their future has always been Michele's focus. Her philosophy as it relates to career and technical education (CTE) is that it's a "god send" for her students. CTE gives her students hope and direction where they feel confident and able to learn. She exemplifies what all students need in their lives – someone who cares, encourages and motivates, and works well with all of their instructors to can help them reach their goals.

*Michele was nominated by Dirk Metzger, Learning Support Instructor, SUN Area Technical Institute*