

Molly Cusick
Educational Service of the Year
ALJ- 2020

“It is difficult to find an individual more passionate about her profession than Molly Cusick.” states Supervisor Andrew Amendola. As a high school guidance counselor, Molly manages a caseload of close to 200 students over all backgrounds and last year Molly’s culmination of her 4-year relationship with one of our top student’s ended with her being Valedictorian at ALJ with an acceptance to Princeton University. Molly’s bears a great challenge, as she must research and inform families about colleges and the selection process. On an average, Molly logs in over 60 hours of professional development to keep abreast in counseling trends and to obtain knowledge on colleges to better help her students.

Molly goes above and beyond for each of her students, for example; last year one of her senior student’s was diagnosed suddenly with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. The family was devastated by the news but always mentioned Molly’s commitment to him was outstanding. She would ensure that he would not have a gap in his education and developed a 504 plan to assist in his success and to supplement his instruction as his aspirations were to pursue a degree in engineering. I can recall a meeting with a grant from the Valerie Fund, that provided a robot housed in Molly’s office to aid in live instruction for this student. When the robot was not enough, Molly went the extra mile and registered her student for an online course, went to Barnes and Noble herself, to purchase the textbook so as to not delay any of his instruction. This young man went on to end the year with straight A’s and is currently studying engineering. Without Molly’s passion for her student and effort to go above and beyond, this road would have been more difficult and cumbersome for the student and family. “To watch her work with her students and staff on various issues and projects is exemplary, her heart is always in the right place doing best for her students and school community.”

Ms. Cusick is well admired and respected by the students and staff alike at ALJ. She volunteers her time selflessly to SMAC (Student Movement Against Cancer). With her efforts, bringing together the community to support students who struggle with cancer, she assembled teachers, administrators to shave their heads for this wonderful cause. She raised close to 4,000 dollars in this event for awareness of cancer.

Thank you Molly Cusick, for giving selflessly to our school community and we are so proud to name you as ALJ’s Educational Service Professional of the Year.