

Heart at Work Employee of the Month

Keller ISD's Heart at Work Employee of the Month for October 2025 is Monica Lamos, a Safety & Security Specialist for Keller ISD. Monica was nominated by Director of Safety & Security Michael Hoffman and members of his team, who shared the following:

Monica is truly the heart of the Keller ISD Safety and Security Department. She is the glue that holds our team together and the backbone that keeps our operation running smoothly. Whether it's scheduling, purchasing, creating and issuing badges for the entire district – including vendors, substitutes, and full-time staff – or assisting other departments, Monica does it all with professionalism, warmth, and a willingness to help anyone who walks through the door. Her impact extends far beyond our department. Monica interacts daily with staff, parents, and vendors, always delivering the highest level of customer service and ensuring everyone feels valued and heard. She seamlessly handles everything from covering the front desk, attending Safety and Security Committee and Board meetings, to working at football games – all while keeping our 50+ team members on track. Monica's meticulous attention to detail, calm presence under pressure, and proactive approach are what set our team up for success. She is often the first point of contact for district employees, parents, contractors, and vendors who reach out with security-related needs – whether it's issuing access badges, resolving a campus safety concern, or helping a parent worried about their child's bus stop. No matter the situation, Monica remains composed, professional, and committed to finding solutions. Our entire department deeply values Monica's dedication, positivity, and tireless efforts. She is not only the hub of our team but also a true example of what it means to embody the Keller ISD 'Heart at Work' spirit.

FACE Awards

The FACE Awards shine a spotlight on the dedicated members of Keller ISD's Operations teams – spanning Maintenance, Grounds, Child Nutrition, Custodial, Warehouse, and Natatorium staff – whose behind-the-scenes efforts keep our schools running smoothly every day. FACE stands for *Friendly, Above & Beyond, Customer Service, and Excellence*. These awards honor individuals who embody these qualities not just in their work, but in the way they approach every interaction – with positivity, pride, and a commitment to serving others. This quarter, we are proud to present the FACE Awards to Kristi Beaver (KHES Child Nutrition Manager), Gerald Carranza (TSMS Head Custodian), and Shane O'Bannon (Facility Services Repair Technician). Their contributions ensure that every Keller ISD student, staff member, and visitor experiences a welcoming, efficient, and exceptional environment.

Star Educator Award Recognition

Keller ISD's Star Educator Award is being presented to Trinity Springs Middle School Math Teacher, Carolyn Dougherty. She was nominated by TSMS Assistant Principal Coletton Cox, who shared:

Mrs. Dougherty is the walking image of the 'Building Thinking Classrooms' model. The most visible benefit for her students is the use of the vertical nonpermanent surfaces (white boards) that line her entire classroom. Mrs. Dougherty brings kinesthetic learning into her Algebra classroom which creates true engagement for her students. She also utilizes every other BTC strategy such as de-fronting the classroom, visibly randomizing groups, and simply requiring every student to think critically about math. For the most veteran of teachers on the TSMS campus to dive head-first into the newest research-based strategy shows just how far she is willing to go to grow her students. In addition to all of that, Mrs. Dougherty hosts 'Lunch & Learn' tutorials every day at lunch, utilizing her fourth period conference time to truly benefit any Titan that needs it. She without a doubt is a Star Educator.