APS Occupational Therapy Assistant Receives Award

Shannon Michel, APS Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, has earned the Agatha Jackson COTA Award of Excellence from the Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado.

Michel helps kids with autism develop their sensory and life skills. She also works with the hearing impaired at Dalton. Michel, an APS alumnus, has shown dedication to the district for nine years and motivation to further her own education. One weekend every month, Michel travels to Texas Woman’s University to attend classes and earn her master’s degree in Occupational Therapy. She balances her job, family and post-secondary education with grace.

Students Gain Career Experience with Innovative Program

The Executive Internship Program at Pickens Technical College pairs APS high school students with careers that pique their interests. Students spend three weeks in a career preparation boot camp learning to prepare resumes and job applications. Then they research career options and interview for an internship in their desired field.

Students spend eight to 20 hours each week working at community businesses or organizations – such as the Aurora Municipal Court, Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children and the University of Denver – to learn about their desired career paths.

Students report that the internship program has been an incredible learning opportunity. The program allows students to find their true passion. Nicole Vianzon, a former APS student who interned at Gateway Battered Women’s Services, discovered that her calling was to help women and children who have suffered abuse. “It just really resonated with me,” said Vianzon, who plans to go to law school and is still volunteering at Battered Women’s Services.