



Retirement Program 2019



What lies behind you
and what lies in front of you,
pales in comparison
to what lies inside of you.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Secret Collection

By Dena Parkinson

Gather the rays from a hundred sunsets;
Catch the spray of an ocean tide;
Fill your head with the smell of roses,
Fresh and wild on the countryside.

Hold a crystal drop of rain
And a frilly flake of falling snow;
Grasp the lulling summer breezes
And the evening stars that hang so low.

Remember the peace of a happy daydream;
Capture the warmth of a friendly smile;
Feel the lift of a word of praise,
And find the joy of the second mile.

Then put into storage your grand collection—
Deep in your heart, where no one can see;
And engrave forever there the thought
That the very best in life is free.

Board of Education

Christine Riley, President

Lisa Rowley, Vice President

Shannon Acor, Member

Rick Ainge, Member

Randy Boothe, Member

Scott Card, Member

Dean Rowley, Member

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Scott Wilson, Assistant Superintendent

Julie Warren, Associate Superintendent

Tracy Olsen, Business Administrator

John DeGraffenried, Director, CTE

Nedra Call, Director, Curriculum K-12

Dave Rowe, Director, Elementary Education

Ken Van Ausdal, Director, Human Resources

Matt Gledhill, Director, Operations

Ann Anderson, Director, Secondary Education

Mike Larsen, Director, Special Education & Federal Programs

Reed Park, Legal Counsel

RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

12:00 pm

Welcome..... Ken Van Ausdal
Director of Human Resources

Invocation..... Dave Rowe
Director of Elementary Education

Luncheon

Entertainment..... Spanish Fork High School Chamber Choir
Jennifer Heder – Choir Director

Board Message..... Christine Riley
Nebo School District – Board President

Certified Employee’s Tribute..... Deana Coates
District Wide – Instructional Coach

Classified Employee’s Tribute..... Gloria Young
Taylor Elementary – School Secretary

Superintendent’s Message..... Rick Nielsen
Nebo School District – Superintendent

Presentation of Clocks to Retirees..... Board Members

Nebo School District Retirees — 2019

Debbie Ainge

Child Nutrition, Transport – Salem Junior High
21.5 years of service in Nebo



Debra Allen

Finance Secretary – Payson Junior High
21 years of service in Nebo



Nanette Black

Child Nutrition – Spring Lake Elementary
14 years of service in Nebo

“I have loved being a lunch lady and talking to the students. I have always tried to make each one feel important by learning as many names as possible and being friendly. Dalless Kearn has influenced me the most by her work ethic and friendly attitude towards the employees and students.” 




Jim Blackett

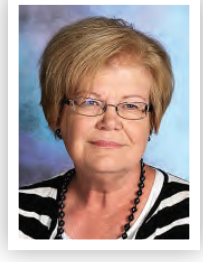
General Maintenance Assistant – District Office
8 years of service in Nebo



Maureen Brereton

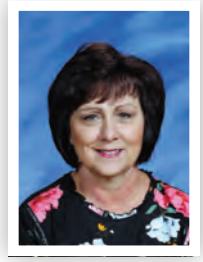
Secretary Technician – Orchard Hills Elementary
16 years of service in Nebo

“Working for Nebo School District at Orchard Hills Elementary for 14 years has been a great opportunity. It has been a privilege to see the caring personalities, the time spent, and the quality of people that work for the betterment of each student. The fun and crazy times will always be remembered. The association with teachers, staff, and students will definitely be missed. Thanks!” 



Denise Bufton

Attendance Secretary – Spanish Fork High
20 years of service in Nebo



Nedra Call

Curriculum Director – District Office
35 years of service in Nebo



“Albert Einstein said, ‘The only source of knowledge is experience.’”

“With 35 years of experience in this great district, I have obtained a vast amount of knowledge from all my wonderful colleagues and friends. Knowledge that could, in no other way, be acquired than by being part of this marvelous educational family. These experiences have been numerous and have blessed my life in so many ways. Thanks to all of you who have traveled with me on this fast paced journey these past 35 years.”

Julie Carlisle

Counselor – Payson Junior High
30 years of service in Nebo



Teresa Chang

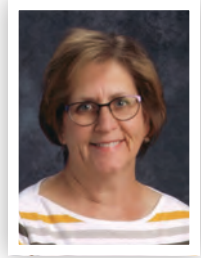
Teacher – Cherry Creek Elementary
30 years of service in Nebo



“It has been a joyous road to watch students grow and develop. There is nothing like seeing the ‘light come on’ and hearing a student say, ‘Now I get it!’ I have appreciated everyone I have worked with. I especially appreciate the parents who shared their children and gave me the opportunity to teach and work with them.”

Lynette Christensen

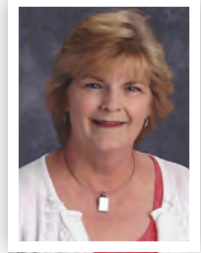
UCBT Technician - Bridges/Summit Center
19 years of service in Nebo



“I’ve learned a lot working for Nebo School District. I have enjoyed working with many students in different settings. I treasure the friendships I have with co-workers. Thank you Nebo School District.” 🌀

Deana Coates

5th Grade Teacher, Instructional Coach – District Office
31 years of service in Nebo



“I came home from my first day of first grade and announced to my Mom that I was going to be a school teacher. I held onto that dream, and now I am completing 31 years as an educator with Nebo School District. I feel privileged to have worked as a school teacher to mostly fifth-graders and as an instructional coach and intern coach to fellow educators. Being a part of children’s lives and watching them learn and grow has been an important part of who I am. I have worked with many amazing people throughout my years at Nebo, who have greatly shaped my life and left a huge mark on my heart. Thanks to the many principals, supervisors, and teammates who helped make sure I was learning and growing too!

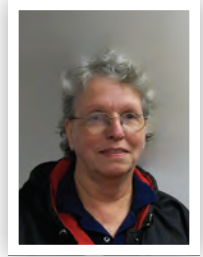
Sharing good books with kids and watching ‘lights’ turn on as we explored new concepts in math will always hold a special place in my heart, but some of my favorite memories will be of the service learning that my classes participated in.

One of my favorite quotes is from Martin Luther King, Jr.: ‘Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education.’ I loved watching my students as caring individuals who at a young age were able to develop a love for service and leave a mark on society.

A student of mine was heard to say on the last day of school one year, ‘I know Mrs. Coates; I know what it takes to be a good teacher! You don’t have to be very smart; but, you have to be nice—every single day!’ Maybe, just maybe, someone will recall that I was nice—every single day!” 🌀

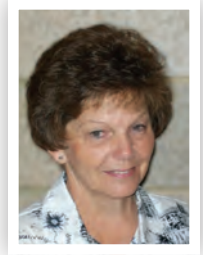
Nancy L. Crombie

Bus Attendant – Transportation
7 years of service in Nebo



Valerie Kaye Ellis

Bus Attendant – Transportation
25.5 years of service in Nebo



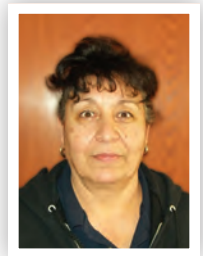
Launa Gonzales

Child Nutrition – Park View Elementary
17 years of service in Nebo



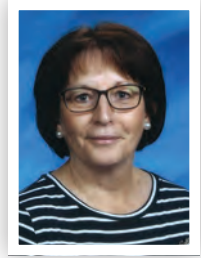
Margaret Gonzales

Bus Driver – Transportation
27 years of service in Nebo



Thurza Gordon

Finance Secretary – Spanish Fork High
20.5 years of service in Nebo



“I am going to miss SFHS. I have loved the people I have worked with and getting to know the kids and helping them learn their way around the finances at school. Their enthusiasm and fun way of looking at life keeps a person young and excited for their success. It has been a privilege for me to work at SFHS. I’ve become a Don and will always have great memories to look back on.” 🌀

Sharon Hales

Secretary – Legacy
22 years of service in Nebo



“I started working 22 years ago having a part-time position at Brockbank Elementary. I didn’t really even want a job, but I thought, “What the heck!” I would never have believed that I would finish my career as the finance secretary, business manager, activities coordinator, van driver, baby sitter, door opener, peace keeper, Christmas Elf, and lunch lady at a school as incredible as Legacy. I will never forget young mothers, their children, faculty and staff. I leave with a grateful heart, but I am truly excited for this new season of my life. Many thanks to all the wonderful people who made the years fly by. You know who you are! I once heard, ‘Your greatness is not what you have, but what you give.’ I gave my heart to Legacy, but I will be leaving with much, much more than I ever gave! Take care Legacy, I will miss you!” 🌀

Georgia Hancock

Teacher – Mt. Loafer Elementary
14 years of service in Nebo



“I have been teaching students with special needs at Mt. Loafer Elementary since 2008. These students and their families have taught me about sacrifice, unconditional love, patience, acceptance, and that even a small progress is worthy of a celebration. I have been fortunate to work with many wonderful service providers and devoted classroom aides without whom I would not have been able to carry out my responsibilities. My love and thanks to all!”

Laurie Hansen

Family and Consumer Science Teacher – Salem Hills High
12 years of service in Nebo, 18 years in other districts



“Much thanks to the following people for giving me a job in Nebo School District: JoAnn Tuttle and Roxann Hoffman – former CTE Director and CTE secretary, for suggesting my name as a possible candidate for a FACS position to different principals. Kaye Isakson – former Principal at Mt. Nebo Junior High, for giving me a part-time teaching job in Nebo School District. Ann Anderson – first principal of Salem Hills High School, for offering me a full-time position at the new school that would open the next school year. Bart Peery – current principal, for allowing teacher autonomy and always supporting FCCLA and the FACS departments at Salem Hills. Elizabeth Reynolds/Blanton – for being my travel companion and always having a positive influence on my teaching career.

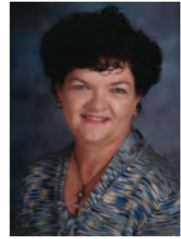
“Because of my involvement in the student organization of FCCLA, I have been able to travel across the United States giving students the opportunity to grow personally in their preparations for adult life. Thanks also to the CTE Department for generously funding all those trips.

“Last, and probably most important are the many students who have sat in my classroom, listened to my soapbox lectures, sang my silly songs, filled

out a lot papers, and took all my tests. The students are the ones I give thanks and kudos to for making my life full and worthwhile.” 🌀

Roxann Hoffman

CTE Secretary – District Office
32 years of service in Nebo



“**H**ow lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” –A.A. Milne (Winnie the Pooh)

“The friends I have gained and the relationships I’ve experienced have been such a blessing these past thirty years. I am grateful for all the memories I am able to look back on and the people I cherish. This new chapter in my life helps me to realize the opportunities I have had and the experiences I have taken for granted. In the hardest times, my friends in Nebo School District have been there for me. I hope you know how much the support and love I was given helped me through the difficult times.

“Yesterday brought the beginning, tomorrow brings the end, though somewhere in the middle we became the best of friends.” 🌀

Ralph Jamsa

Counselor – Salem Hills High
27 years of service in Nebo, 5 years in another district



“**I** really can’t imagine another career that would have been as exhilarating, exasperating, joyful, or depressing as education has been. I have been fortunate to work in the most important industry in the world, refining the most precious resources we have – the minds and hearts of our young people. I have loved my interactions with the students who have come and gone over the years. I am forever changed for the better because of their influence in my life. I am also extremely grateful for all of my colleagues who have shown me love and patience. I have enjoyed the ride with you.” 🌀

Cliff Jex

Transportation Supervisor – Transportation
40 years of service in Nebo



“I have worked for Nebo School District for 40 years as a bus mechanic, parts purchaser, shop foreman, and supervisor of transportation. Each position was a new adventure. I served on negotiation and insurance committees for many years, enjoying the challenges and rewards associated with each. The best part of my years of service was getting to know my coworkers, not only in the transportation department but throughout Nebo School District. I had the opportunity to become friends with them as well as employees from other districts and many others I have met over the years. I love the transportation department. It has been home to me for 40 years, and I hope to see the department thrive in the future.”

Suanne Jones

Vision Specialist – District Wide
3 years of service in Nebo, 18 years in another district



“Nebo School District has been very good to me. I have felt appreciated and welcome wherever I have gone. It is difficult to ‘put away’ many years of my life devoted to teaching children to use their vision or compensatory skills. It is quite an experience to help them to understand the world around them a bit better. I find myself talking like I will still be there for them, when I know I will not. Someone else will have to take up the work. And there are others who care and who understand the needs of this population. They can do the work and maybe do it better than I have done.

“I will miss the camaraderie and the boost I have had from coworkers. I will miss the moments of success when a student finally understands what I have been trying to teach. I will miss watching the progress of a cortically visually impaired student from seeing very little to seeing everything. I will miss being the ‘expert’ with ideas to help a student succeed. I will miss the sweet nature of those students who try so hard.

“There are good things ahead, but I am grateful for the knowledge I have acquired and the good experiences I have had here at Nebo School District.”


Janet Kelley

Special Education Technician – Barnett Elementary
25 years of service in Nebo



“As I prepare to retire, I have been thinking a lot about the teachers and students I have worked with over the years. I have been fortunate to work with teachers and technicians who truly care about students we work with. I have always felt that I was part of a team that made a difference. Over the years there has been laughter and tears, frustration and success. There are students that I was not sad to see move on and some that will forever remain in my heart! I have been reminded that everyone matters, and no two students learn in the same way or excel in the same subjects. I have worked with students who will never quite catch up with their peers, and some who have worked hard and have gone on to be in regular education classes. That success is especially sweet!

“There are teachers that helped me learn my job and cheered me on when I thought I was in over my head. A special thank you to Angela Craig, Jennifer Harker, Leney Edvalson, and Tiffany Day for making me feel that I matter in your lives and the lives of our students. I will forever be grateful for your friendships and the lessons of love and patience I learned from each of you.

“I was trying to think of how to sum up the last 25 years, and a special memory came to mind. Probably 15 years ago, a young man in our class was learning to divide with remainders. He would carefully look at the problem, and then write the remainder, and then work the problem. His answer was correct! The first time, we thought it was just a lucky guess. The technician who was working with him explained that you have to work the problem first, and then you will know the remainder. Time and time again, problem after problem, he looked at the problem, wrote down the remainder and then worked the rest of the problem. His answers were always correct!! When he finally convinced us that he was going to do it his way or no way, he came to my table to show me what he had learned. I smiled and said, “That is very cool!” He looked at me very seriously and said, “Mrs. Kelley, that is way past cool!” So that will be the way I remember my years with Nebo School District. They were ‘way past cool!’” 

Carollee King

Child Nutrition – Spring Lake Elementary
26.5 years of service in Nebo



Kelly B. Lewis

Bus Driver – Transportation
16 years of service in Nebo

“**A** big thank you to all the good friends in the transportation department. There are many good friends who work hard and make a big difference to students and employees alike. Thank you to the district employees who have helped with Insurance and retirement issues.” 🌀



Dave McKee

Principal – Spanish Fork High
35 years of service in Nebo

“**I** am so glad that I chose this profession. So many good friends over the years have inspired me. I love my teachers, staff, and kids at SFHS. It’s definitely difficult to say goodbye!” 🌀



Lenna Mendenhall

Instructional Technician – Bridges/Summit Center
28 years of service in Nebo

“**I** have truly enjoyed my time as an employee of Nebo School District. I’ve learned a lot. I have made many lasting friendships, and have formed a loving bond with so many students and their families.”



The special needs students I've had the privilege of working with for all of these years are truly an inspiration to me and to all. I am proud of each one of them and have witnessed throughout the years the giant strides and accomplishments they have made. Thank you Nebo School District for this wonderful opportunity." 🌀

Melony Mortensen

Finance Secretary – Maple Mountain High
26 years of service in Nebo



“Over the course of my years with Nebo School District, I have had the privilege to meet, work with, and get to know so many amazing, fun, and interesting people. I have worked at both Payson High School and Maple Mountain High School and enjoyed both schools immensely. The students, communities, and coworkers have enriched my life. Some of the best people I have had the good fortune to interact with have been in education. Their dedication to students, their communities, and the future is unmatched. I will miss the daily associations, activities, and many experiences of being in the school but look forward to future adventures.” 🌀

John Plaisted

Counselor – Payson Junior High
11 years of service in Nebo, 17 years in another district



“It has been my good fortune to work as a counselor at Payson Junior High School these many years. I'll miss my counseling cohorts and the outstanding team of dedicated professional educators I have worked with during my time here. I've learned so much from them. Most of all I'll miss the students who have done their level best to keep me young at heart, and it gets harder every year. I will also miss the group practices we had in portable 6, during Den time, and getting ready for concerts. Those were good times, and I admire the courage of those student musicians brave enough to perform with an over-the-hill guitar player!” 🌀

Sherry Plaisted

Facilitator – Brockbank Elementary

15 years of service in Nebo, 17 years in another district




“I have had great experiences in the field of education. You will meet the finest people working in schools. Teachers are dedicated, hard-working, and caring individuals who want to make a difference for the children in their care. It has been an amazing 32 years, 15 of which have been in Nebo School District.

“I have been so fortunate to work with the amazing staff at Brockbank Elementary. I worked with three incredible principals and many teachers that I will miss so much. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me. I also worked with awesome people as an instructional coach at Barnett and Park View and enjoyed my few years with the district specialists and staffs of those schools.

“One of the highlights of my career has been working with provisional and pre-service teachers. Most are so enthusiastic about the profession and anxious to learn all they can. I enjoy watching them interact and learn with their students and refine and improve their practice.

“Last but not least, the KIDS are why we are all in this together. They are our future, and they need amazing teachers to help them along the way. There is never a dull moment when you work with kids. Every day is a new adventure to share, or a problem to solve. I will miss working with the incredible students.

“Overall, it has been a great 15 years in Nebo District.” 

Kathryn D. Roberts

Art Teacher – Spanish Fork High
16 years of service in Nebo



“It has been great working with the teachers, staff, administration, and students at Spanish Fork High School. Dave McKee became the principal at the high school the same year I began teaching full-time. I learned so much from him! I knew I could go to him with any concerns or problems. There has been such a feeling of friendship between everyone who works at SFHS--the principal, the secretaries, the custodians, the counselors, the assistant principals, all the teachers in every department. I have always felt like everyone was a friend to me, and we would all help each other anyway that we could. We have the best people and the best students here!”

Gillian Sayers

Special Education Teacher – East Meadows
Elementary
14 years of service in Nebo



“My greatest joy has been running in to my past students. They have shared how they are doing in college or a university, and they thanked me for teaching them. It warmed my heart to know that even if at times it seemed I was not getting through, I really was. I made a difference. I went into teaching after working with the disabled population for 20 plus years. I love seeing the growth, however small. There have been many moments filled with joy and laughter as students shared funny experiences or made those childish errors that made me smile. I will miss my students and all the happy memories of teachers and leaders who have made this journey possible.”

Michelle Sepos

Special Education Teacher – Payson Junior High
15.5 years of service in Nebo

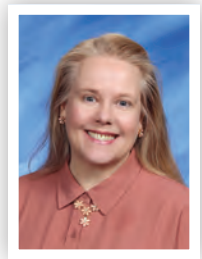


“One of my favorite sayings is, ‘To learn something new, you need to do something you have never done before.’ I would encourage my students to do new things and learn. I have always loved trying new things, and it has helped make my life fun and exciting.

“I have learned so many valuable things working for Nebo School District for the past 15½ years. One is that there was always someone who helped and supported me in my efforts to become a better teacher. There were great administrators, counselors, mentors, and fellow teachers giving encouragement and help. I have experienced growth through the programs of Professional Learning Communities, ESL Endorsement, eMints program, and the Comprehensive Math Instruction. The best part of it all was interacting with the various unique students over the years and watching them grow. What a wonderful journey.” 🌀

Lisa Simmons

Teacher – Springville High
32 years of service in Nebo



Richard Stephenson

Bus Driver – Transportation
12 years of service in Nebo



“I really enjoyed taking the teams to meets and games. Later, I started driving a special needs route and enjoyed helping the students to and from school.” 🌀

Cindy Sumsion

Special Education Teacher – Taylor Elementary
35 years of service in Nebo, 1 year in another district



“**T**o teach is to learn twice.” –Joseph Joubert
“For me teaching has been a wonderful learning opportunity!” 🌀

Lori Thomas

Math Teacher – Maple Mountain High
30 years of service in Nebo



“**D**os't thou love life? Then do not squander time!” –Benjamin Franklin

“I have taken this Benjamin Franklin quote to heart and have kept busy!

“I moved to Woodland Hills and Nebo School District when I was in the third grade and attended the old Salem Elementary School, which has now been torn down. Moving to a small town was a culture shock, but I was welcomed by kind and motivated teachers like Charles Thorpe and Ryan Creer. They instilled a strong desire in me to study and learn. I later attended Spanish Fork High School and again had wonderful teachers like Bob Backman, Stewart Francom, Mike Olson and Sue Davis who taught me to work hard and achieve. Mr. Francom once told our class that he had never given a perfect score on a lab report. His announcement made me want that perfect score! I worked on that report with diligence and got that perfect score!

“I attended BYU and got my bachelor's and master's degree, and then returned to Spanish Fork High where I taught math for 20 years. When Maple Mountain was built, I moved there and have taught for 10 years. I have loved working with the best math department in the state. The math teachers are qualified, kind, and hard-working professionals. The students at Maple Mountain are lucky to have them.

“I am excited to have more time to be with my children; Sasha, Keanon, McCall, Darby, and my five awesome little grand-children. I will be able to work on my many hobbies. Thanks to my good husband, Sid, for being my listening ear, advice giver, and patient companion for so many years. Sid, are you ready to go on an adventure?!!!!” 🌀

Ruth Wilder

Teacher – Summit Center

16 years of service in Nebo, 3 years in another district

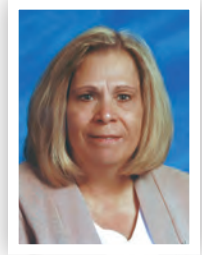


Colleen Wilson

Teacher – Payson Junior High

17 years of service in Nebo, 3 years in another district

“**I** have enjoyed my years teaching both math and art to over 13,000 students. It is always rewarding when I talk to a former student and learn they have chosen a career in one of those two fields; and know I taught them and had a part in their choice of a profession. In addition, I have enjoyed the many teachers and principals that I have worked with and call them friends.” 🌀

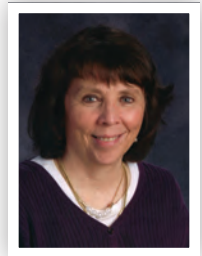


Linda Woodfield

CTE Teacher – Mapleton Junior High

10 years of service in Nebo

“**W**orking with teens is a privilege and joy to me. My hope is that I have made a difference for good in helping my students through the years gain life skills. Teaching CTE courses allows students to apply skills to everyday life and experience immediate results. I have loved this experience and the wonderful students, fellow teachers, and administrators I have worked with.” 🌀



Bonnie Wright

Child Nutrition – Salem Junior High / Spanish Fork High
18 years of service in Nebo

“**I**t was a lot of hard work, but it was so enjoyable to work with all of the students in feeding them breakfast and lunch. I also made many friendships with fellow lunch workers who were as dedicated to feeding the kids as I was. I will miss them.” 🌀



Michele Youd

Child Nutrition – Park Elementary
24 years of service in Nebo

“**I** have enjoyed working for Nebo School District for the past 24 years. I have loved working with the students, most have been in elementary school. I have been a clerk at the old Westside Elementary, Spanish Oaks Elementary, Riverview Elementary, Salem Junior High, and currently, at Park Elementary in Spanish Fork.



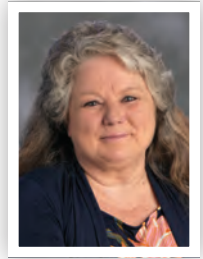
“My favorite part of the day is talking to the students and hearing about their day. Sometimes it is about losing a tooth, and other exciting things that they wanted to share with me. I hope I have been a good influence on them, and that the students know how much I care about them.

“I’m grateful for the friendships of my coworkers, faculty, and staff that I have gotten to know throughout the years.

“The most important thing is to enjoy life, to be happy; it’s all that matters. I plan to enjoy spending time with my family. I have four children, spouses, and eight grandchildren. They make my life happy.” 🌀

Gloria Young

Secretary – Taylor Elementary
33 years of service in Nebo



“**T**aylor School has been a part of my life since I started first grade as a student. I had some amazing teachers that made a real impact in my life. When my children went to school at Taylor, I served in PTA and then had an opportunity to be hired as a substitute teacher. Next I was hired as a math technician and had the wonderful opportunity to have recess everyday with the students. Through the years, I have been a Title I technician, skill building technician, summer custodial crew, and then secretary. No two days have ever been the same. I have worked with some of the most wonderful, amazing people that you will ever meet. I have learned so much and have enjoyed each day.

“My motto is, ‘Once a Taylor Tiger, always a Taylor Tiger.’

“I will be ‘Forever Young.’” 🌀

2019 RETIREMENT LIST

Certified Employees

Name.....	Years of Service
Nedra Call.....	35
Julie Carlisle	30
Teresa Chang.....	30
Deana Coates	31
Georgia Hancock.....	14
Laurie Hansen	12
Ralph Jamsa	27
Cliff Jex.....	40
Suanne Jones.....	3
Dave McKee	35
John Plaisted	11
Sherry Plaisted.....	15
Kathryn D. Roberts.....	16
Gillian Sayers.....	14
Michelle Sepos.....	15.5
Lisa Simmons.....	32
Cindy Sumsion	35
Lori Thomas	30
Ruth Wilder.....	16
Colleen Wilson	17
Linda Woodfield.....	10

2019 RETIREMENT LIST

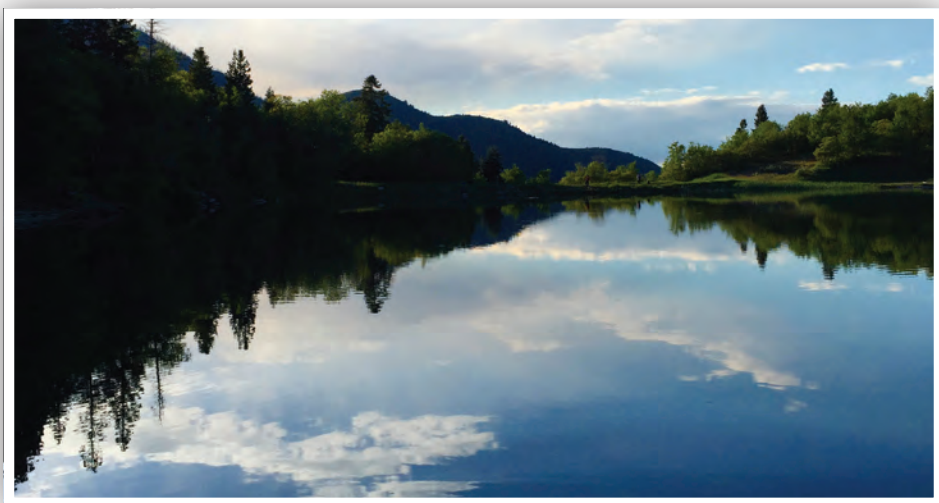
Classified Employees

Name	Years of Service
Debbie Ainge	21.5
Debra Allen	21
Nanette Black	14
Jim Blackett	8
Maureen Brereton	16
Denise Bufton	20
Lynette Christensen	19
Nancy Crombie	7
Valerie Kaye Ellis	25.5
Launa Gonzalez	17
Margaret Gonzalez	27
Thurza Gordon	20.5
Sharon Hales	22
Roxann Hoffman	32
Janet Kelley	25
Carollee King	26.5
Kelly B. Lewis	16
Lenna Mendenhall	28
Melony Mortensen	26
Richard Stephenson	12
Bonnie Wright	18
Michele Youd	24
Gloria Young	33

Certified Employees Retiring: **21** for a total of **468.5** Years in Nebo

Classified Employees Retiring: **23** for a total of **479** Years in Nebo

Total Employees Retiring: **43** for a Total of **947.5** Years in Nebo



Don't let yesterday take
up too much of today.

— Will Rogers



You are never too old
to set another goal
or to dream a new dream.

— C. S. Lewis