

Herrington Honored with Key to City for 35 Years in Education

Carolyn Herrington, former Director of Bands for DeRidder schools, was honored at the Beauregard Parish Honor Bands concert for 35 years of dedication to the music arts in Beauregard Parish. Mayor Ron Roberts presented her with the Key to the City in recognition of her contributions to the community.

Herrington began her career as the band director at East Side Upper Elementary in DeRidder, and then taught for six years at DeRidder Junior High School before moving to DeRidder High School. She served as band director at DHS for 26 years, culminating 35 years in the parish.

During her 8,000 band place 700 students bands and 80 State Band. Her earned Superior marching and They also traveled States, from Washington, D.C., to earning superior accolades, and name of DeRidder High School as a positive representation of the parish wherever the band traveled.



career, she taught students, helping in district honor students in the All-bands consistently ratings at both concert festivals. across the United Colorado to Florida, Gatlinburg, TN, ratings and highest leaving the good

She has held state office in the Louisiana Music Educators Association for 25 years, serving two terms as president, three terms as band division chairperson, and currently serving as publicity/exhibit chairperson. She was twice named as the Louisiana Band Director of the Year. She was the first band director in the state to earn National Teacher Certification. She was named as the Louisiana representative in the National 50 Directors Who Make a Difference. She is an inductee in the Louisiana Music Educator Hall of Fame.

Herrington expressed that it is most important to focus on how one's work moves students forward, each day trying to make their lives better through teaching music.

"I am blessed to have been a part of a school system that values and protects music education," said Herrington. "Administrators in our parish like Hayward Steele, Myrna Cooley, Karen Cunningham, Kim Hayes, Eddie Joslin, and Tim Cooley have listened and made decisions to promote music."

She is married to James Herrington, together having 71 years of service to Beauregard Parish schools between them. They have two sons, Brett and Tim.