

Deborah Wilson is a school counselor with over 39 years of experience. Although she has worked as a counselor in elementary and high schools, middle school is her passion. This is the time when adolescence kicks in and the children are just starting to find themselves. In her own words, "I can't think of a better time to work with them, help them set goals and truly expand their paradigms! Learning to advocate for yourself and taking advantage of opportunities are learned skills. Middle school is the place where skill acquisition soars."

Clearview is where Deborah is employed. It is also her alma mater. She is a true example of "giving back" to those that helped her along the way. So in addition to being a counselor there are many other duties she performs. Deborah is very passionate about women's issues so it is no surprise that she has headed the Women's History Museum projects at the school. She also writes and directs the drama productions that focus on the contemporary issues of the day. Deborah is also on the committee that oversees the Character Celebration every year. She says, "We honor athletes and those that are academically gifted. We need to also honor those students that display honorable character traits." These activities are some of the reasons she was named Clearview Educational Specialist of the Year for 2014 – 2015.

Deborah is very active in the Gloucester County Education Association, where she is on the Executive Board. She is an elected member to the New Jersey Education Association Delegate Assembly. Deborah also serves on two NJEA Committees – Human and Civil Rights and The Minority Leadership and Recruitment Committee. She is a member of the National Education Association's Woman's Caucus and a National Education Association's Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention Cadre Trainer.

Deborah is blessed to work with many wonderful people at Clearview. They are always supportive of the projects she takes on. Her family is just as important, they keep her grounded while offering her their unwavering support. But it is her son Kevin that has had the most dramatic effect on her educational mores, because she strives to interact with every child she meets in the same way she wishes others to interact with Kevin. Her mantra is, "*They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.*"

Deborah is an author, an avid reader, and she loves to garden.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...
It's learning to dance in the rain!"

Vivian Greene