



FOUNDATION *for* EXCELLENCE
IN PUBLIC EDUCATION
CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

CJ Amason Star Teacher Gift



Cynthea Johnson (CJ) Amason, a native of Sparta, TN and a graduate of the University of Tennessee/Knoxville, moved to Athens in 1993. Athens-Clarke County has greatly benefitted from her passions and advocacies - none more than her commitment and dedication to education exemplified by her service to the Foundation for Education in Athens-Clarke County. Elected as a Trustee in 2003, CJ served two terms as president before leading the organization as Executive Director from January 2014-December 2021. During her tenure, the organization passed the million-dollar endowment mark in 2019. CJ worked diligently to expand Classroom Grant options and additional CCSD employee awards and honors during her years as Executive Director. CJ and her husband, Buz, are proud parents of CCSD graduates Phil, Mary Hill, twins Stephen (wife Brooke), and Saralee, and foster daughter, Minnesha. Professionally and personally, CJ lives her signature line, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Aesop, The Lion and the Mouse

This gift was funded by local real estate professional, former Clarke Central High School Language Arts teacher, and former Foundation for Excellence Trustee Reign Streiter. Reign wanted to honor his mother Sally Hunt. Ms. Hunt was born and reared in Great Britain and graduated from Oxford University. She moved to the United States and proceeded to become a leading international economist consulting for the World Bank; the countries she focused on ranged from Egypt to Turkey to China. Ms. Hunt always valued education but more so she appreciated and valued educators themselves.

The CJ Amason Star Teacher Gift is a gift given to both Star teachers at both Cedar Shoals and Clarke Central High Schools. The gift consists of \$250 in Downtown Athens gift certificates. It was first awarded in Spring 2022.

