

HENRY L. SHATTUCK

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

2018 Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Award Recipient



Claudia Rufo, Lead Surround Teacher, Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy, Boston Public Schools

As a **Lead Surround Care Teacher** at the **Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy**, **Claudia Rufo** is a *Wonder Woman* who truly believes in doing whatever she can, whenever she can, to help the Baldwin community and others. Claudia's caring nature supports her unwavering commitment to children and inspires everyone at the school to do the best they can for all students.

Claudia Rufo's commitment to providing loving care to Baldwin's students, three to seven years of age, is evident in her generous, openhearted support to them, their parents and family members. During her 14 years at the Baldwin Academy, her extraordinary dedication to students, families and school members has inspired all who know her. Anyone who enters Claudia's classroom becomes aware of her dedication to teaching and children. She consistently provides new and engaging work areas and visual displays that say, "welcome," and "children belong here".

Although Claudia typically dismisses recognition or praise, the effect of her enthusiastic and open-hearted support of students is regularly witnessed when they run to hug Mrs. Rufo and express their joy at seeing her each morning. Her impact on students also becomes apparent when the number of former students, now in middle or high school, come back to visit with Mrs. Rufo for happy reunions.

A recent example of Claudia's consideration for families became evident when she learned that the mother of a student had to miss work to care for her seriously ill child. Claudia discreetly arranged for the purchase of grocery store gift cards so the child's mother could focus on caring for her son without worrying how she could afford to feed him. When the child was able to return to school, Claudia made certain that his health care was attended to properly while in school and continued this watchfulness throughout his years at Baldwin Academy.

While Mrs. Rufo's love and support of children is demonstrated openly and regularly, it is also given as freely to her colleagues. Her efforts to acknowledge something wonderful in another's life happens almost daily. She is always ready to provide support and sympathy to her colleagues when needed and goes out of her way to make new staff feel at home and welcomed.

For additional information, please contact Boston Municipal Research Bureau at 617-227-1900