

## FOR EDUCATOR, IT ALL ADDS UP

### City Math Coordinator Says State Recognition Result Of Group Effort

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Posted: February 6, 2015

By **AMELIA BRUST**

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**HARRISONBURG** — When city schools staff learned that Anne Loso, division mathematics coordinator, was being recognized for her efforts, they thought the occasion would force her to finally do some bragging.

They were wrong.

Loso will receive the 2015 William C. Lowry Mathematics Educator of the Year award for the math specialist category at an awards dinner on March 6 in Virginia Beach.

But her work, she said, is a group effort.

“It’s very humbling to get this award because it’s not an award you get, really, by yourself,” she said in her office on Thursday.

Loso works next door to the directors for the city’s STEM, science, language arts, English as second language and gifted education programs.

“I share this with all the other people here,” she said of her collaboration.

Loso has been with Harrisonburg City Public Schools since 1983, having previously taught at W.H. Keister Elementary School and Thomas Harrison Middle School. She said her colleague, gifted education program coordinator Gail Collins, nominated her for the award from the Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The city’s curriculum uses a “Singapore math,” or “math in focus” approach that emphasizes problem solving and reasoning. Loso said it allows instructors to go beyond teaching the step-by-step processes of math.

“They’re actually trying to connect the mathematics they’re learning the understanding of to an application in real life,” she said.

Although Loso said some students may lose confidence in their math abilities while watching their standardized test scores stagnate, she said feedback teachers give children on their scores is crucial to the learning process.

“Without that, I think we lose the piece of owning your own learning,” she said.

Loso said the division's math teachers try to encourage as much group collaboration as possible for students to find different solutions to the same problems.

For the last three years, Loso said the division has emphasized "process standards" in math instruction, which are developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

"We're no longer the stand-and-deliver model," she said of lecture-style instruction. "We're in the model of collaborative learning,"

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