

Robin Weaver, principal of Harmony Hills, and, formerly a media specialist, understands exactly how encompassing a media program can be. She won the Nancy Walker Award for supporting the media center with funding for virtual field trips, (National Geographic Mayaquest Rainforest Trip), joint teaching with the media specialist - the toughest 5th graders in the school, making sure her media specialist was part of the administrative team, funding to attend conferences, including FETC, and asking the media specialist to head the technology committee. She believed strongly in professional development and took me to a couple of national technology conferences, as well as, one focused on staff development. We then used our newly gained knowledge and incorporated in training in-house.

Since the media aide position was only part-time, she funded additional hours for a staff member to help with technology troubleshooting and funded aides to barcode and enter into Winnebago, additional materials that were purchased through a grant. She also made sure that the rest of the staff saw this position as an administrative one with the authority to make important decisions. As her media specialist, I had enormous input in the renovation design of not only the media center, but also, the computer lab, funding that kept us on the cutting edge of technology which translated into technology used with Headstart students through 5th grade. Ms. Weaver also modeled the use of technology at staff meetings and leadership meetings. She required teachers to show the use of technology as part of their evaluation. We had a Videography Club and Student Computer Troubleshooters. She encouraged the use of videoconferencing with our students and we had students always demonstrating their competencies with all kinds of equipment. We worked as a team. – Twila Cavey