

# 47 new teachers welcomed to MC

By JESSICA O'BRIEN - For The News-Dispatch 8/16/2017

Barbara Eason-Watkins had three bits of advice for new teachers who are kicking off a new school year in Michigan City: Don't be afraid to ask for help, show your students that you care about them, and look to other teachers for new ideas.

As superintendent of Michigan City Area Schools, Eason-Watkins was helping to welcome 47 new teachers to Michigan City during a New Teacher Luncheon held at Pottawattomie Country Club on Friday.

The luncheon was hosted by the Lakefront Career Network and the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce to welcome these new teachers to Michigan City for the 2017-2018 school year. Teachers from Michigan City Area Schools were invited, as well as the city's many parochial schools.

Megan Applegate, LCN committee chair, said the goal of the lunch was to give the new teachers a chance to meet with area business leaders. But more importantly, she wanted them to know that the business community cares about educators in Michigan City.

"We're here to support you in educating our future leaders," she said.

Several local business leaders sponsored and attended the lunch to mix and mingle with the new teachers – many of which are still getting to know the Michigan City community.

"These businesses aren't just selling you something. They want to be your partner because we are in this together," Eason-Watkins said on Friday. She wanted the teachers to understand that Michigan City is a community whose businesses support its schools.

In particular, Eason-Watkins praised the efforts of the Lakefront Career Network in supporting educators.

Lakefront Career Network, an organization less than three years old, is a young professionals group of the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce. Its mission, Applegate said, is to connect individuals in the community and help develop them professionally.

"Every time we need their support, they step up," Eason-Watkins said of the Lakefront Career Network. "In a city on the rise, we have business leaders that care about what (educators) are doing."

More information about the Lakefront Career Network is available by visiting [www.lakefrontcareernetwork.org](http://www.lakefrontcareernetwork.org).