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*Connecting for Success: Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day*

May 21, 2020

## ABC's Diane Sawyer Special Report Features HCCSD

Lexington, Miss. — Employees of the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) will receive well deserved national attention, via a television broadcast. In an ABC news special report titled *Our New Reality*, hosted by award winning journalist Diane Sawyer, team members in the Food Service and Transportation departments are spotlighted for their extraordinary hard work during the COVID-19, national pandemic.

Focused primarily on healthcare workers, the show explores how the virus began and where the world goes next. However, because of the impressive contributions of the HCCSD Food Service and Transportation employees, the show makes a stop in Holmes County and showcases team members preparing and delivering 6000 meals to students affected by the closing of schools.

Dr. James L. Henderson, Superintendent of Schools, said "It is rewarding and serves as confirmation to what I've said many times before, we have some of the best employees in our district." "This is why I advocated recently for salary increases for all of our non-certified employees."

The employees made major sacrifices to ensure the students who rely on school breakfasts and lunches are fed while they engage in distance learning at home. "While we may be the poorest county in the country, our community is strong," Henderson said. "Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I knew we had to provide meals for our children. Transportation and Food Service workers galvanized around the community to feed the children and we've been delivering meals since March 17<sup>th</sup>."

The special broadcast is slated to air Tuesday, May 26. According to ABC, Sawyer interviews scientists about the race to find a vaccine and profiles essential workers by asking about their fears and bravery as front line workers during this challenging time. It takes a close look at where we, as a nation, are now, what we have learned about ourselves and our country, and what's next.

***Our New Reality: A Diane Sawyer Special* airs May 26 at 8 p.m. CT on ABC.**

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