



## Congratulations Donella Young!

### 2026 Michigan CEC Dr. William C. Morse Teacher of the Year Award!

This year's Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Donella Young, a dedicated special education teacher at Detroit Public Schools Community District's Drew Transition Center. Mrs. Young works with students with moderate to severe cognitive disabilities, helping each learner build independence, confidence, and skills for future success.

One of her most impactful contributions is her leadership of the Drew Flower and Gift Shop, a thriving student-run enterprise that has expanded to include a morning café. Through these programs, students gain hands-on experience in customer service, teamwork, time management, money handling, and workplace responsibility, all within an environment designed to mirror real-world employment.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Young is a trusted colleague, school leader, and passionate advocate for individuals with disabilities. Her creativity, compassion, and unwavering commitment empower her students to recognize their abilities, take pride in their accomplishments, and envision what is possible for their futures.

Mrs. Donella Young truly embodies the spirit of Teacher of the Year, and we are proud to recognize her extraordinary impact on her students and school community.

