



2020 Jay Armstrong Award for Outstanding Dragon Alumni Niki Gilley

Very few Carroll graduates have contributed as much to Carroll ISD and Dragon excellence as Niki Gilley. During her time as a student, she was well respected by staff & students alike. After graduating in 1989, she went to UTA and continued both academics and athletics. Upon completion of her bachelor's degree, she made her way back to Carroll as quickly as she could where she's served many roles & worn many hats throughout her distinguished career. She has been the assistant cross country coach, assistant track & field coach as well as head track & field coach and head basketball coach. She has also shared her time & talents as advisor for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, & PALS in addition to teaching driver's education. She has not only served this district for more than 20 years, she has been a shining example of what it means to be a Dragon every step of the way. She connects with not only with her athletes and her students, but also with those who have never had a class with her. She's inspired dozens of classes of Dragons to push themselves to be better and she's done so by example. She's been able to balance a very busy professional life with being a wife & mom to her boys in addition to furthering her own education and completing her Master's degree. She inspires those around her to improve themselves not only as students, athletes & educators but as people. She doesn't see adversity; she sees opportunity. She

shows us all how to face each day with positivity, determination, perseverance and grace. She has a commitment to Carroll and all of its students that is second to none. Her passion for education, dedication to others, and huge heart are evident to everyone she meets. She doesn't expect excellence because it's a slogan. She expects it of others because she strives for it herself every day. She is a living example of the traditions and core values Carroll was founded upon. She doesn't wear green because the district signs her paycheck, she wears it because she IS a Dragon. Always has been. Always will be.