

Graduating from Lockney High School, **Ellen Coffman** attended McMurry College. Being one of the first women to major in math, she gained a drive and compassion to encourage girls and women to pursue math related courses of study. Ellen graduated from West Texas State University in 1975. She taught in Tulia and Phillips before making Borger High School her home for twenty-one years. She is married to Larry Coffman and has two children, Jodie Roden and Ron Coffman.



Community has been important to Ellen Coffman. She served on a committee which was to become HC3 to establish the first safe house in Borger. She is an active member in the First United Methodist Church and has served on a variety of committees. Ellen served as a judge for Odyssey of the Mind at all levels. In addition, she continues to mentor teachers and students in the community when there is a need.

Mrs. Coffman has received numerous honors which include, the 2002 National Honor Society Golden Bone Award for Excellence in Classroom and the 1994 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was also a member of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Ellen Coffman was instrumental in designing, installing, and managing the first K-12 computer lab in the Panhandle. She was a member of the TEA committee which published the first computer literacy standards. At Borger High School, Ellen strived to take the Borger High Math Department to its greatest limit; she worked feverishly to launch the AP math program. She succeeded by building a new math tier consisting of Pre-AP Calculus, and AP Calculus.

Mrs. Coffman's contributions to education, her character, and how she ran her classroom are only part of why she was so successful. She impacted her students by being a role model, inspiring them, and she not only taught a subject, she felt she was teaching the students as a whole. Mrs. Coffman felt it was her responsibility to teach her student about responsibility, resilience and respect. She also knew, that it was her job to teach student to be intelligent thinkers in order to prepare them for life after high school. She encouraged each student to reach toward their potential and pursue their calling in life. When asked by a student one day what they would be doing in class, she answered by playing the song "Take it to the Limit" by the Eagles, not only did this have to do with math but it related to Mrs. Coffman's life.

