

by Jackie Perrone



# Tara Black

Tara Black lives the acronym at River Bluff High School, where she serves as assistant principal. It's posted on the reception wall at the school entrance: We Are CREW!!

"CREW at River Bluff stands for creating relationships, exploring within," she says, "and of course it brings up the image of teamwork as well. That's what we are all here for: support for students and their families. I feel that God has led me to the right place for my life."

Tara grew up in Dillon, S.C., and graduated from Clemson in 1994. She taught mathematics at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, then at Palmetto High School in Anderson, before arriving in Lexington in 1997. She was a math teacher at Lexington High School for 10 years before moving into administration and now serves at River Bluff.

After Clemson, Tara earned her M.E. degree in secondary education at U.S.C., followed by certification in secondary leadership later. She also holds credentials as an ADEPT/TEAM evaluator, advanced placements statistics teacher, and gifted and talented endorsed.

She considers the school administrators to be servant leaders. That's "servant" first. "You focus on the needs of others; you acknowledge other people's perspectives, give them support, involve them in decisions, and build a sense of community," she explains. She even has an acronym for this concept: See the future. Engage and develop people. Reinvent continuously. Value results and relationships. Embody values.

Tara has found a variety of venues to carry out her servant-leader philosophy. While teaching math, she coached the cheerleaders. The family is active at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington. She taught Sunday school and VBS, served as elder, and assistant leader of Girl Scout Troop 2228. She is active in Delta Kappa Gamma, the professional society for women educators, and in Palmetto State Teachers Association (PSTA).

Tara met Jon Black while they were both students at Clemson, and recently they celebrated 21 years of marriage. Their three children are Jacob, a twelfth-grader at RBHS, Jarrett, an eleventh-grader there, and Ansley, eighth grade at Meadow Glen Middle School. ■