

2025

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

**WELLS
FARGO**



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

OUR SPECIAL APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO SPONSORS WHO MAKE THE PROGRAM POSSIBLE:



**WELLS
FARGO**

Wells Fargo — Wells Fargo is a leading financial services company that provides a diversified set of banking, investment and mortgage products and services, as well as consumer and commercial finance. In 2024, Wells Fargo provided grants totaling roughly \$11.7 million across North Carolina in support of housing, small business, financial health, sustainability and more. North Carolina employees volunteered more than 180,000 hours.



Carolina Hunger Initiative —

Our mission is to increase access to healthy food for North Carolinians. The Carolina Hunger Initiative is a project at the UNC Center for Health

Promotion and Disease Prevention and works in collaboration with No Kid Hungry NC. We use programming, applied research, and compelling communications to support policy, systems, and environmental changes. From innovative ways to serve school breakfast and summer meals for kids, to nutrition classes empowering elementary students, we are connecting people with the food they need to thrive. Learn more at CarolinaHungerInitiative.org.



Education First — Education First is proud to have a longstanding relationship with the Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Award — it is a relationship built on valuing the fantastic educators and administrators across the

state of North Carolina that bring their schools to life and have dedicated their careers to the next generation of global citizens. EF's mission is to open the world through education.



EQUITABLE

Equitable — Equitable, a principal franchise of Equitable Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: EQH), has been one of America's leading financial services providers since 1859. With the mission to help clients

secure their financial well-being, Equitable provides advice, protection and retirement strategies to individuals, families and small businesses. Equitable has more than 8,000 employees and Equitable Advisors financial professionals and serves 3 million clients across the country. Please visit equitable.com for more information.

"Equitable" refers exclusively to Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (NY, NY). Equitable Advisors is the brand name of Equitable Advisors, LLC (Equitable Financial Advisors in MI and TN).



Jostens — Minneapolis-based Jostens provides products, programs and services that help people tell their stories, celebrate important traditions and recognize achievements. Jostens

is the most trusted partner in helping customers to celebrate moments that matter. The company's products include school yearbooks and pictures, scholastic products such as class rings, graduation products, letter jackets and products for athletic champions and their fans. Jostens partners with schools across the country and internationally, and helps bring their mission, vision, and values to life through their Branding Initiatives — They strive every day to help Faculty & Students not only express it on the walls but live it in the halls. Jostens is a subsidiary company of Platinum Equity.



Lenovo

Lenovo — Lenovo is committed to supporting educators. Focused on a bold vision to deliver smarter technology for all, we are developing

world-changing technologies that create a more inclusive, trustworthy, and sustainable digital society. As a global industry leader in the education market, Lenovo is committed to making a difference in support of teachers, students, classrooms, and education through related initiatives focused on community investments and collaborative partnerships. For 20 years, Lenovo has called North Carolina our home — one of our two global headquarters is located in Morrisville and our U.S. Fulfillment Center is located in Guilford County.



NC Digital Learning Initiative —

The Digital Learning Initiative focuses on providing digital teaching and learning supports and resources for North Carolina Public School Units.

These supports include: Designing and Implementing the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan, providing professional learning around Digital Teaching and Learning pedagogies and resources, curating and developing resources related to the goals established in the Digital Learning Plan, conducting research to inform the design of Digital Teaching and Learning professional learning and resources. The work that is completed under the Digital Learning Initiative is done with support from the North Carolina State Legislature.



North Carolina Principal of the

Year Network — The North Carolina Principal of the Year Network is dedicated to celebrating and

advancing school leadership across the state. Through advocacy, mentorship, and professional development, the network supports principals in their mission to create thriving school communities. By showcasing success stories, promoting the recruitment and retention of exceptional school leaders, and championing policies that strengthen public education, the network aims to ensure that every student in North Carolina has access to a high-quality education led by visionary and effective leadership.



Truist Leadership Institute —

Truist Leadership Institute provides programming for public school principals that focuses on developing

leadership, leading change, and engaging staff members. Our educational leader programs are offered to NC public school principals at no cost. Our goal is to help educational leaders produce impact through developing deeper awareness of the factors that form the individual, and how these guide decision-making, interactions, and leadership approach. Empowering our educational leaders is one important way that we live our purpose to "inspire and build better lives and communities." Interested in learning more? Visit us on the web at TruistLeadershipInstitute.com.

AWARD CEREMONY

— LUNCHEON —

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ELIZABETH SANTAMOUR • Educator Recognition Coordinator,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

GREETINGS

ALAN DUNCAN • Vice-Chairman, State Board of Education

REMARKS

CHAD GREGORY • Regional Branch Network Executive, Wells Fargo

REFLECTIONS

BECKIE SPEARS • 2024 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

CELEBRATION OF PRINCIPALS

JOSH STEIN • Governor of North Carolina

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL FINALISTS

BECKIE SPEARS • 2024 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

REMARKS

MAURICE “MO” GREEN • State Superintendent,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2025 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

JOHN WARD • Commercial Banking Market Executive, Wells Fargo

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

2025 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

CLOSING AND DISMISSAL

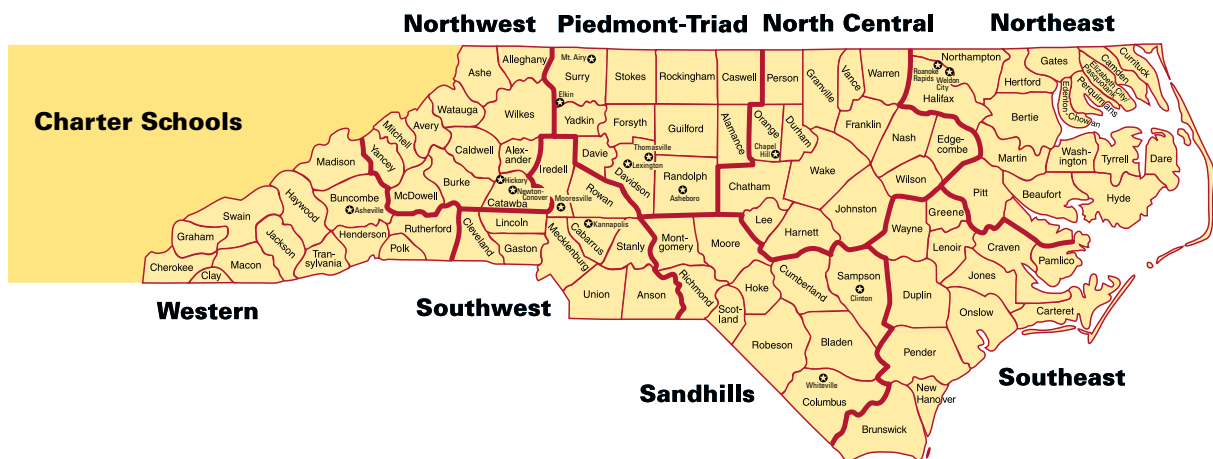
JAMES “MARTY” BULLARD • Regional Vice President, Equitable

Photos immediately following ceremony on terrace for finalists and sponsors.

WELLS FARGO NC PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR PROGRAM

Established in 1984, the Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Program honors principals who create and sustain environments where students and educators thrive. Sponsored by the Wells Fargo Foundation in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, this prestigious recognition has celebrated 45 exceptional school leaders over its history. The program highlights the accomplishments of principals who exemplify excellence in leadership, aiming to both recognize their impact and inspire continued growth in educational leadership across the state.

The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year serves as a voice for the state's approximately 2,500 principals, working closely with the Regional Principals of the Year to form a dynamic leadership team. Together, they embrace opportunities to advocate for the profession, elevate the principalship, and share best practices. This collaborative network not only amplifies individual achievements but also builds a strong, supportive community of educational leaders across North Carolina.



2025 STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Identifying a statewide representative for North Carolina's principals is both an important and challenging responsibility. The members of the state selection committee are thoughtfully chosen for their deep understanding of and commitment to educational leadership. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education are proud to honor principals who are driving innovation, fostering growth, and making a lasting impact on their school communities. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the selection committee for their thoughtful deliberation, time, and steadfast dedication to recognizing excellence in school leadership.

DR. ELENA ASHBURN • 2021 North Carolina Wells Fargo Principal of the Year

SUZIE KOONCE • Community Relations Lead Consultant,
Wells Fargo Philanthropy & Community Impact

DR. STEVE LASSITER, JR. • 2015 North Carolina Wells Fargo Principal of the Year

DR. TRACY MULVANEY • Dean of the School of Education
at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke

NORTHEAST REGION



DR. JOHN LASSITER

Northeast Region Principal of the Year

Hertford Grammar School
Perquimans County Schools

“Building an effective team requires trust and open communication. Trust takes time to build. Now more than ever, I realize a key component to high performing schools is consistency in leadership that leads a team, a team committed to strong communication and working together under a common vision and mission.”

- 11 Years of Administrative Experience
- North Carolina State University (BS)
- Elizabeth City State University (MSA)
- East Carolina University (EdD)
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- NC Principal and Assistant Principal Advisory Board
- Future Ready Leader Presenter

Northeast REGION WINNERS

TRACEY SLADE NIXON

Northside High
Beaufort County Schools

ASHLEY SPELLER BRADLEY

Bertie Middle
Bertie County Schools

TIMOTHY LAZAR

Camden County High
Camden County Schools

MELISSA REYNOLDS

Moyock Middle
Currituck County Public Schools

TAMI HARPER

Manteo Middle
Dare County Schools

JAMES SCHIFFBAUER

Weeksville Elementary
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank
Public Schools

KATINA LYNCH

Aurelian Springs Institute
of Global Learning
Halifax County Schools

DONNA TYRE MANNING

Rodgers Elementary
Martin County Schools

MEGAN NEWMAN

Elmhurst Elementary
Pitt County Schools

DR. ROBERT TRIPP

Columbia Middle
Tyrrell County Schools

BRIAN HOPKINS, SR.

Weldon STEM High School
Career Academies
Weldon City Schools

SOUTHEAST REGION



CHRISTY PROPST

Southeast Region Principal of the Year

Morehead City Elementary School
Carteret County Schools

“My door is always open or you will find me in the hallways. I want to know what is happening and how to improve. I always try to approach my role as a leader of OUR school. I work for the staff, students and community. I work daily to build leadership and ownership in our school from staff and students.”

- 11 Years of Administrative Experience
- Western Carolina University (BS)
- Appalachian State University (MA and School Administration Add-on)
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- NC Principals and Assistant Principals Association Member
- NC Association of School Administrators Member

Southeast REGION WINNERS

CAROLINE GODWIN

Roger Bell New Tech Academy
Craven County Schools

SUSAN SELLERS

Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary
Duplin County Schools

EMERY SMITH

Snow Hill Primary
Greene County Schools

RASHARD CURMON

Northeast Academy
Lenoir County Public Schools

BRENT HALL

Winter Park Elementary
New Hanover County Schools

STEVEN E. CLARKE

Richlands High
Onslow County Schools

DR. FRED A. J. ALLEN

Wayne School of Technical Arts
Wayne County Schools

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



JASON JOHNSON

North Central Region Principal of the Year

Orange High School
Orange County Schools

“While I have had many professional successes and achievements, I am most proud of my evolution as a school leader into someone who believes in developing teacher leaders, facilitating collaboration, honoring student voice and building relationships.”

- 21 Years of Administrative Experience
- North Carolina A&T State University (BS)
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (MSA and Ed.S.)
- NC Principals and Assistant Principals Association Member
- NC Association of School Administrators Member
- Orange County Schools Equity Task Force

North Central REGION WINNERS

TIFFANY CHESHIRE
Phillips Middle
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

LEMONDRÉ WATSON
Pittsboro Elementary
Chatham County Schools

DR. THERESA C. MCGOWAN
Lakeview Secondary
Durham Public Schools

CASSANDRA HARLEY
Coker-Wimberly Elementary
Edgecombe County Public Schools

DAVID C. WESTBROOK
Royal Elementary
Franklin County Schools

LISA M. TUSA
Tar River Elementary
Granville County Public Schools

RENEE GILMORE
Johnsonville Elementary
Harnett County Schools

MELISSA CHAMPION HURST
Corinth Holders High
Johnston County Public Schools

ANDREA PROFIO CUMMINGS
Tramway Elementary
Lee County Schools

DR. LEON R. DUPREE
Rocky Mount Middle
Nash County Public Schools

DR. MELODY T. WILSON
North End Elementary
Person County Schools

DR. NEALIE WHITT III
Vance County High
Vance County Schools

SHEJUANNA JACOBS
Leesville Road High
Wake County Public Schools

JENNY HAYES
Edgar T. Beddingfield High
Wilson County Schools

SANDHILLS REGION



DR. LAURA BAILEY

Sandhills Region Principal of the Year

Scotland High School
Scotland County Schools

"Difficult conversations are inevitable, but I approach them with honesty and integrity, even when my opinions may not be popular. This ensures that growth is encouraged respectfully and constructively. Doing what is best for students will always be at the forefront of every decision."

- 11 Years of Administrative Experience
- East Carolina University (BS)
- Western Carolina University (MSA)
- University of North Carolina Wilmington (EdD)
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Completed NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program

Sandhills REGION WINNERS

GEORGIA ETTA SPAULDING
East Bladen High
Bladen County Schools

DR. NICOLE CARROLL
Sunset Avenue Elementary
Clinton City Schools

KRISTIE H. LEINTHALL
Acme Delco Elementary
Columbus County Schools

DR. SHANESSA FENNER
William T. Brown Elementary
Cumberland County Schools

COLLEEN PEGRAM-WIKE
Hoke County High
Hoke County Schools

MARVIN SMITH
East Middle
Montgomery County Schools

STEFANIE PHILLIPS
Pinecrest High
Moore County Schools

ANGEL MABE
Mineral Springs Elementary
Richmond County Schools

DAWN WILKES
Hobbs Elementary
Sampson County Schools

PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION



RONNIE HEWITT

Piedmont-Triad Region Principal of the Year

Liberty Drive Elementary School
Thomasville City Schools

"I am dedicated to implementing systems that ensure all students have access to high-quality instruction. Promoting equity and inclusion is not just a goal; it's a fundamental part of our mission. I've successfully involved teachers, staff and even students in the development of our operational policies. This collaborative approach yields more comprehensive guidelines and ensures everyone feels invested in our shared goals."

- 7 Years of Administrative Experience
- Western Carolina University (BS and MA)
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (School Administration Add-on)
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Presenter for Teacher Empowerment and Achievement Program
- Youth Coach for multiple community organizations

Piedmont-Triad REGION WINNERS

JENNIFER REED

Hillcrest Elementary
Alamance-Burlington School System

GRAHAM GROSECLOSE

North Asheboro Middle
Asheboro City Schools

KERI COLLINS LOVELL

Churchland Elementary
Davidson County Schools

KAREN STEPHENS

William R. Davie Elementary
Davie County Schools

DR. JENNIFER H. HALL

Elkin Middle
Elkin City Schools

DR. JONATHAN BROOKS

Bessemer Elementary
Guilford County Schools

JIHAN HARVEY

Southwest Elementary Global Academy
Lexington City Schools

JASON DORSETT

Mount Airy High
Mount Airy City Schools

DR. SUSAN W. CHAPPELL

Eastern Randolph High
Randolph County Schools

LAURA CARTER

Rockingham Early College
Rockingham County Schools

DR. KATHERINE THROWER

Walnut Cove Elementary
Stokes County Schools

BRANDON WHITAKER

J. Sam Gentry Middle
Surry County Schools

EMILY GOINS

East Bend Elementary
Yadkin County Schools

SOUTHWEST REGION



KELLY WITHROW

Southwest Region Principal of the Year

Battleground Elementary School
Lincoln County Schools

"In addition to communication, I feel that modeling respect is crucial. When I treat everyone—students, teachers and parents—equally and with dignity, this sets a powerful example for the school community. Consistently demonstrating respect through patience, empathy and fairness encourages staff and students to mirror those behaviors in their interactions."

- 9 Years of Administrative Experience
- University of Pittsburgh (BS)
- Gardner-Webb University (MA)
- Completed NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program
- Member of Delta Kappa Gamma
- Completed Leader in Me Training

Southwest REGION WINNERS

KEVIN ADAMS

Wadesboro Elementary
Anson County Schools

TARA BUTCH

Rocky River Elementary
Cabarrus County Schools

DR. TRACEY HARRILL

Providence Senior High
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

NICHOLAS ELI WORTMAN

Shelby High
Cleveland County Schools

CHRIS MILLS

Webb Street
Gaston County Schools

DIANA FORD JONES

North Iredell High
Iredell-Statesville Schools

DR. SARA NEWELL

A. L. Brown High
Kannapolis City Schools

DR. LYNDSEY PELUSI

Millbridge Elementary
Rowan-Salisbury School System

DAMON RHODES

West Stanly High
Stanly County Schools

KELLY FRYCZ

Sardis Elementary
Union County Public Schools

NORTHWEST REGION



DR. JESSICA ANTHONY

Northwest Region Principal of the Year

Davenport A+ Elementary School
Caldwell County Schools

"In addition to open communication, I believe honesty and transparency are of the utmost importance as a leader. I keep teachers informed as best I can and give them information they need in order to feel informed which reduces uncertainty and fosters mutual respect."

- 9 Years of Administrative Experience
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA)
- Appalachian State University (MA)
- Liberty University (EdD)
- Member of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators
- National Life Group's LifeChanger of the Year
- Caldwell County Association of Educators – Lovable Local Leader

Northwest REGION WINNERS

JACOB LAIL

Alexander Central High
Alexander County Schools

LINDSEY WILLIAMS

Ashe County Early College
Ashe County Schools

JENNIFER O'BRIANT

Avery County High
Avery County Schools

CHARLES R. WILLIAMS, JR.

Jimmy C. Draughn High
Burke County Public Schools

DR. CHAD MAYNOR

Bandys High
Catawba County Schools

ANGELA WILKERSON

Marion Elementary
McDowell County Schools

STACIE BURLESON

Mayland Early College
Mitchell County Schools

SCOTT CARTER

Cove Creek
Watauga County Schools

DEE SURGEON

North Wilkes High
Wilkes County Schools

WESTERN REGION



KARLEY WELLS

Western Region Principal of the Year

Clyde Elementary School
Haywood County Schools

“Just like students in a classroom, teachers are all at different levels of their careers and are perfecting their craft in various ways. The teachers are my students, so I must differentiate between these needs. The components of my PLC meetings build teacher efficacy through affirmation, exposure and reassurance.”

- 4 Years of Administrative Experience
- Appalachian State University (BS and MSA)
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- NC Principals and Assistant Principals Association Member
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Member
- NC Portrait of a Graduate Rubric and Performance Task Writer

Western REGION WINNERS

CARRIE W. BUCHANAN

Hall Fletcher Elementary
Asheville City Schools

NATHAN ALLISON

T.C. Roberson High
Buncombe County Schools

DR. JOHN C. SHEPARD

North Henderson High
Henderson County Schools

KHERI COWAN

Blue Ridge
Jackson County Public Schools

JENNIFER CALDWELL

Madison Early College
Madison County Schools

KYLA BUMGARNER

Ellenboro Elementary
Rutherford County Schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS



DR. JAKE WILSON

Charter School Principal of the Year

Mountain Island Charter Middle and High School
Mount Holly, NC

“By integrating data-driven analysis, transparent improvement planning and equitable hiring practices, I ensure that our school community is constantly progressing toward creating an environment where every student, regardless of background, has the opportunity to thrive.”

- 10 Years of Administrative Experience
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte (BA and MSA)
- Appalachian State University (EdD)
- North Carolina Principal Fellow
- Cratis D. Williams Society Inductee
- Conference Presenter North Carolina Association for Public Charter Schools

Charter Schools REGION WINNERS

TED DUNCAN

Brevard Academy
Pisgah Forest, NC

DR. KIMBERLY SINCENO

Capital Encore Academy
Fayetteville, NC

KATE B. TAYLOE

Girls Leadership Academy
of Wilmington
Wilmington, NC

JASON M. JOWERS

RISE Charter
Raleigh, NC

VANESSA BAKER

Socrates Academy
Matthews, NC

FATIH KANDIL

Triad Math and Science Academy
Greensboro, NC

LAUREN O'BRIEN

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Asheboro, NC

2024 REGIONAL FINALISTS

2024

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR



BECKIE SPEARS

Northwest Region Principal of the Year

Wilkes County Schools
Wilkesboro Elementary School

- 9 Years of Administrative Experience
- Meredith College (BA)
- Appalachian State University (MSA)
- National Board Certified Teacher
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice
- National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award



SONYA RINEHART

Northeast Region Principal of the Year
John A. Holmes High School
Edenton-Chowan Public Schools



CHRISTIANNE MAY

Southeast Region Principal of the Year
Castle Hayne Elementary School
New Hanover County Schools



WINSTON PIERCE

North Central Region Principal of the Year
Farmington Woods Magnet Elementary School
Wake County Public School System



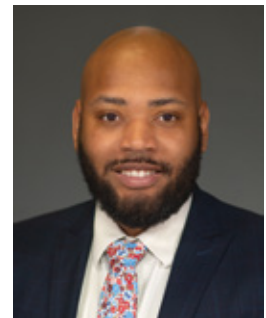
ERICA FENNER-MCADOO

Sandhills Region Principal of the Year
Howard Hall Elementary
Cumberland County Schools



DR. NANCY MARTINEZ

Piedmont-Triad Region Principal of the Year
Career Center High School
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools



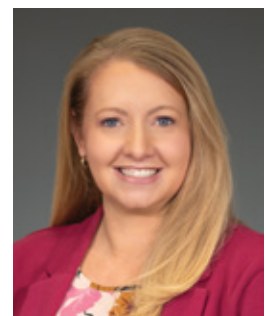
DWIGHT THOMPSON

Southwest Region Principal of the Year
Renaissance West STEAM Academy
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



PHIL ROGERS

Western Region Principal of the Year
R-S Central High School
Rutherford County Schools



DR. SARENA FULLER

Charter School Principal of the Year
ArtSpace Charter School
Swannanoa, NC

PAST WINNERS

2023 Donna Bledsoe, Surry County Schools,
Cedar Ridge Elementary

2022 Dr. Patrick Greene, Greene County Schools,
Greene Central High

2021 Dr. Elena Ashburn, Wake County Public School System,
Needham B. Broughton Magnet High

2020 Kisha Clemons, Newton-Conover City Schools,
Shuford Elementary

2019 Matthew Bristow-Smith, Edgecombe County Public
Schools, Edgecombe Early College High

2018 Tabari Wallace, Craven County Schools,
West Craven High

2017 Jason Griffin, Perquimans County Schools,
Hertford Grammar

2016 Melody Chalmers, Cumberland County Schools,
E.E. Smith High

2015 Steve Lassiter, Jr., Pitt County Schools, Pactolus School

2014 Dr. Carrie Tulbert, Mooresville Graded School District,
Mooresville Middle

2013 Dale Cole, Beaufort County Schools, Chocowinity Middle

2012 Patrice Faison, Guilford County Schools,
Oak Hill Elementary

2011 Dr. Rob Jackson, Union County Public Schools,
Cuthbertson High

2010 Dr. Jan King, Henderson County Schools,
Glenn C. Marlow Elementary

2009 Vann Pennell, Brunswick County Schools,
South Brunswick High

2008 Debra Morris, Kannapolis City Schools, A.L. Brown High

2007 Craig Hill, Lenoir County Schools, Kinston High

2006 Marian Yates, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
South Mecklenburg High

2005 Margaret Hyatt, Buncombe County Schools,
Avery's Creek Elementary

2004 John R. Black, Hickory City Schools,
Longview Elementary

2003 Nina René Corders, Cumberland County Schools,
E.E. Smith High

2002 Lloyd G. Wimberley, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
Myers Park High

2001 Peggy Smith, Johnston County Schools,
East Clayton Elementary

2000 Gail T. Edmondson, Greene County Schools,
Snow Hill Primary

1999 Daniel A. Piggott, Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools,
Carver High

1998 Pandora M. Bell, Guilford County Schools,
Jesse Wharton Elementary

1997 Judith H. Budacz, Pitt County Schools,
Wahl-Coates Elementary

1996 Mary D. McDuffie, Cumberland County Schools,
Seventy-First High

1995 Jo Ann Bowman, Lee County Schools,
J. Glenn Edwards Elementary

1994 David C. Burleson, Burke County Schools, Freedom High

1993 Ann B. Clark, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
Alexander Graham Middle

1992 Jane B. Burke, Hertford County Schools,
Hertford County High

1991 John M. Schroeder, High Point City Schools,
Fairview Elementary

1990 John R. Griffin, Cumberland County Schools,
E.E. Smith High

1989 Barbara M. Ledford, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools,
Northeast Jr. High

1988 Dan A. Jones, Guilford County Schools,
Erwin Open Elementary

1987* Karen H. Campbell, Buncombe County Schools,
W.W. Estes Elementary
Dale J. Metz, Greensboro City Schools,
Gateway Education Center

1986* Patricia F. Gibson, Newton-Conover City Schools,
Newton-Conover Middle
Janie E. Manning, Pitt County Schools, Bethel Elementary

1985* Alice H. Hart, Buncombe County Schools,
Glen Arden Elementary
Beverly S. White, Hickory City Schools,
Jenkins Elementary

1984* Robert A. Clendenin, Guilford County Schools,
Page High
Alexander Erwin, Wilkes County Schools,
Wilkes Central High

* Prior to 1988, two statewide winners were named each year. Since then, one statewide winner has been selected.

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL *of the* YEAR

“The purpose of a public school is to prepare our children for the future, so we work hard to keep our school focused on social and academic learning. It sounds simple enough, but staying focused on learning can be a challenge. It is essential that we know our students, families, and staff so that we can accomplish our mission of empowering all learners to reach their greatest potential.”

BECKIE SPEARS

2024 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

TODAY'S LIVESTREAM POWERED BY



EQUITABLE

Please share moments from today on social media using #nctoyboy.

The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year process
is facilitated by the Office of the State Superintendent.