

PRINCIPAL of the YEAR

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023, 12:00 PM







NORTH CAROLINA State Board of Education Department of Public Instruction

#NCTOYPOY

SPONSORS



Wells Fargo is a diversified, community-based financial services company founded in 1852 that proudly serves one in three U.S. households and more than 10 percent of small businesses in the U.S., and is a leading middle market banking provider in the U.S. In 2022 the company provided \$13.1 million in grants to support nonprofit organizations and schools across North Carolina. In the communities we serve, the company focuses its social impact on building a sustainable, inclusive future for all by supporting housing affordability, small business growth, financial health, and a low-carbon economy. Wells Fargo employees also logged more than 14,000 volunteer hours last year in local communities across the state.



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. EF is pleased to recognize one of the Principal of the Year Award finalists with a trip to our Global Education Symposium in 2023. This event is hosted at the North American headquarters in Boston, MA where like-minded secondary educators from across the country will gather to explore the Global Competency in a day-long conference designed to inspire and equip educators with valuable tools and resources for preparing students for their futures in an interconnected world. The program provides participants with a unique opportunity to connect with a community of educators and organizations from across the country and the world. The prize includes flights, accommodations, select meals, conference registration, and a chance to experience Boston in the fall.



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.



No Kid Hungry North Carolina is working to break down the barriers that keep kids from accessing healthy food. Our organization was formed in 2011 in partnership with state leaders and the national No Kid Hungry campaign, which is a

program of the nonprofit Share Our Strength. In 2014, No Kid Hungry NC became an initiative of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

In North Carolina, almost 900,000 public school students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Many of those students depend on school for their nutrition. That's why No Kid Hungry NC is helping connect our state's children to effective but under-utilized federal nutrition programs such as school breakfast, summer meals, and afterschool meals.

Learn more at NoKidHungryNC.org.



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

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AWARD CEREMONY

— LUNCHEON —

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

DR. SONJA BROWN • Educator Advancement Lead,
Office of District and Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

DR. CYNTHIA MARTIN • Senior Director,
Office of District and Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

ALAN DUNCAN • Vice-Chairman, State Board of Education

VIDEO GREETING

THE HONORABLE ROY COOPER • Governor of North Carolina

REMARKS

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

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP

DR. PATRICK GREENE • 2022 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

CATHERINE TRUITT • State Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL FINALISTS

DR. JERRY OATES • Deputy Superintendent, District and School Support Services

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2023 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

JOHN W. WARD • Executive Vice President, Market Executive – Triangle East Commercial Banking, Wells Fargo

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

DR. SONJA BROWN

Photos immediately following ceremony on terrace for finalists and sponsors.

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

WELLS FARGO NC PRINCIPAL of the YEAR PROGRAM

The Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Award was introduced in 1984 to recognize the role of the principal in establishing an environment conducive to the pursuit and achievement of academic excellence in North Carolina's schools. This Foundation sponsors the award in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Since the inception of the program, there have been 43 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principals of the Year, 290 regional award recipients, and 3,640 local Wells Fargo Principals of the Year. The Principal of the Year Program recognizes principals at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

The local process begins with each school system selecting one principal as its local Wells Fargo Principal of the Year. The selection process at the local level is the responsibility of the local superintendent or designee. The person chosen as the local Wells Fargo Principal of the Year represents his or her school system in the regional selection process. The regional selection process includes an evaluation of the candidate through a portfolio review and an interview. After the district and charter school nomination processes are completed, the Charter School Principal of the Year joins the eight Regional Principals of the Year as a finalist for State Principal of the Year. The state selection process continues with each regional finalist being interviewed and his/her portfolio reviewed by a state selection committee.

The Wells Fargo Principal of the Year serves as the North Carolina ambassador for the state's approximately 2,500 principals. The 2023 NC Principal of the Year will serve in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education for a two-year term and serves on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Public School Forum.

This selection process is facilitated in each region by Regional Education Facilitators representing the Office of District & Regional Support at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.



2023 STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The State Selection Committee, chosen based on their dynamic public record in support of education, perform panel interviews and extensive portfolio review in the selection of the North Carolina Principal of the Year. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education take pride in celebrating the most innovative and effective public school leaders in our state.

DR. MARY ANN WOLF • President and Executive Director, Public Schools Forum of North Carolina
DR. SHIRLEY PRINCE • Executive Director, North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association

DR. DEL BURNS • Former North Carolina District Superintendent

DR. RANDY BRIDGES • President, Creative Education Solutions, Inc.

DR. SONJA BROWN, EX OFFICIO MEMBER • Educator Advancement Lead, Office of District & Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

NORTHEAST REGION



JOHN LASSITER

Northeast Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Hertford Grammar | Perguimans County Schools

"My success is not the result of a single individual's work but the return on investment of educational giants who poured their wisdom into my career as an educator. I am blessed to call many of these educational giants both mentors and friends."

- 9 years of administrative experience
- North Carolina State University (BS)
- Elizabeth City State University (MSA)
- East Carolina University (Doctoral Candidate)
- · North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Presenter at NCTIES Conference
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 96% of the staff believes the school leadership consistently supports teachers

ORTHEAST REGION WINNERS

LISA BYRUM

Camden Intermediate | Camden County Schools

DR. JUSTIN DURHAM

Currituck County High | Currituck County Schools

RACHEL BENTON

Cape Hatteras Elementary | Dare County Schools

MICHELLE NEWSOME

White Oak Elementary | Edenton-Chowan Public Schools

DR. KATINA JONES-WAPLES

Sheep Harney Elementary | Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

DR. TAYLOR MATKINS

Pactolus Global | Pitt County Schools

ERIC PULLEN

Roanoke Valley Early College | Weldon City Schools

SOUTHEAST REGION



ASHLEY FAULKENBERRY

Southeast Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Trent Park Elementary | Craven County School

"I believe that effective leadership is reflective of the impact that you can make in your school community. I value the opportunity to share my success with my school community that supports the great things that are happening within the halls of our school."

- 10 years of administrative experience
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington (BA)
- East Carolina University (MAT)
- Gardner Webb University (MA)
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice
- District Trainer for Facilitative Leadership
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 96% of the staff believes teachers believe what is taught will make a difference in students' lives



JAY WESTBROOK

East Carteret High | Carteret County Public Schools

AMY F. WALLACE

B.F. Grady Elementary | Duplin County Schools

PHIL COOK

West Greene Elementary | Greene County Schools

STELLA MILLER DOWNS

Trenton Elementary | Jones County Public Schools

PATRICK PHILLIPPE

Woodington Middle | Lenoir County Public Schools

CHRISTOPHER MADDEN

Williston Middle | New Hanover County Schools

PAGE HIGHSMITH

Swansboro Elementary | Onslow County Schools

BRIAN ALLEN

Surf City Elementary | Pender County Schools

BRIAN WEEKS

Norwayne Middle | Wayne County Public Schools

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



DR. WILLIAM LOGAN

North Central Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Hillside High | Durham Public Schools

"As a servant leader, I believe the professional successes and achievements that are most notable are those that impact students, faculty, and the school community."

- 19 years of administrative experience
- South Carolina State University (BA, M.Ed)
- · University of Southern Mississippi (Ph.D)
- Presenter at the National School Board Association Conference
- Presenter for the New Tech Network Summer Institute
- Member of National Association of Secondary School Principals
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 96% of the staff believes teachers are encouraged to try new things to improve instruction

ORTH CENTRAL REGION WINNERS

DR. BRAD WALSTON

Northwood High | Chatham County Schools

CRYSTAL PHILLIPS

Phillips Middle | Edgecombe County Schools

TRENACE GILMORE

Louisburg Elementary | Franklin County Schools

ASHLEY CLARK

Butner Stem Middle | Granville County Public Schools

DR. JASMINE N. NIXON

Overhills Middle | Harnett County Schools

MELISSA MOORE HUBBARD

Archer Lodge Middle | Johnston County Public Schools

DR. NATALIE KELLY

SanLee Middle | Lee County Schools

STANLEY W. FARRINGTON

Partnership Academy | Orange County Schools

PATRICK HOLMES

Southern Middle | Person County Schools

EDWARD ORTEGA

STEM Early High | Vance County Schools

DR. ANNICE WILLIAMS

Bugg Magnet Elementary | Wake County Public School System

JENNIFER PARKER FOGERTY

Charles H. Darden Middle | Wilson County Schools

SANDHILLS REGION



JIM BUTLER

Sandhills Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Richmond Senior High | Richmond County Schools

"The first step to making a change is to recognize that a problem exists. Self-reflection is difficult when done with honesty. When there is recognition that problems exist, then there can be a path to improvement."

- · 23 years of administrative experience
- Pembroke State University (BA)
- East Carolina University (MSA)
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Ed.S)
- · Best of the Rock Best Principal Award
- NCMSA Central Region Administrator to Watch
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 98% of the staff believes teachers use digital content and resources in their instruction



TERESA COLEMAN

Tar Heel Middle | Bladen County Schools

DR. JULIE MALCOLM

Butler Ave Elementary | Clinton City Schools

KRISTIE H. LEINTHALL

Acme Delco Elementary | Columbus County Schools

GEMETTE MCEACHERN

New Century International Middle | Cumberland County Schools

DR. DORESIA S. WILLIAMS

Sandy Grove Middle | Hoke County Schools

ENOC ROBLEDO

Candor Elementary | Montgomery County Schools

JENI W. WILEY

West Pine Middle | Moore County Schools

AMANDA GRAHAM

St. Pauls Elementary | Public Schools of Robeson County

TONYA COLWELL

Roseboro Elementary | Sampson County Schools

PATRICK W. PEED

Carver Middle | Scotland County Schools

PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION



DONNA BLEDSOE

Piedmont-Triad Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Cedar Ridge Elementary | Surry County Schools

"I believe in leading by example, therefore, I take on various roles throughout the building such as stepping in to cover classes, cleaning the school, doing lunch duty, nurse roles and much more. It is important for staff to see that I value their work and am willing to roll up my sleeves to work alongside them."

- 13 years of administrative experience
- Appalachian State University (BS, MA)
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice
- NC ASCD Lighthouse School Award Recipient
- Member of Surry County Schools Leadership Framework Design Team
- Presenter at NCTIES Conference
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 96% of the staff believes teachers are held to high professional standards for delivering instruction



GREG HOOK

Hawfields Middle | Alamance-Burlington School System

LISA HAYES

Donna Lee Loflin Elementary | Asheboro City Schools

TAMMY BUSH

Central Davidson Middle | Davidson County Schools

ANGELA BURGESS

Cooleemee Elementary | Davie County Schools

EMILY RYCROFT

Elkin Elementary | Elkin City Schools

PAUL TRAVERS

Washington Montessori Elementary | Guilford County Schools

BETH CALLICUTT

Charles England Elementary | Lexington City Schools

CHELSY BEVERLY PAYNE

Jones Intermediate | Mount Airy City Schools

MRS. DEBBIE SHERON

Franklinville Elementary | Randolph County School System

DR. CHRISTY ANN BAILEY

John W. Dillard Academy | Rockingham County Schools

JEFF BOYLES

Sandy Ridge Elementary | Stokes County Schools

BRAD ROYAL

Reagan High | Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

DR. CHAD L. MANN

Starmount High | Yadkin County Schools

SOUTHWEST REGION



TONYA WILLIAMS

Southwest Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Concord Middle | Cabarrus County Schools

"Trust must be earned through building significant relationships, and relationships grow stronger with transparency within the school. Showing personal vulnerability with my staff is a way to build these relationships from the ground up."

- 16 years of administrative experience
- Appalachian State University (BS)
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte (MSA, K-6 Teaching Certification)
- Gardner-Webb University (MA)
- North Carolina Principals Fellow
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 94% of the staff believes teachers have sufficient access to instructional technology



CARRI DECKER

Anson County Early College | Anson County Schools

DANIELLE K. BELTON

Paw Creek Elementary | Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

DR. DUSTIN BRIDGES

Township Three Elementary | Cleveland County Schools

KRISTIN KISER

Lowell Elementary | Gaston County Schools

FRANK DAVID SARACO

Celeste Henkel Elementary | Iredell-Statesville Schools

DR. MANDI CAMPBELL

Kannapolis Middle | Kannapolis City Schools

SCOTT H. CARPENTER

Lincolnton High | Lincoln County Schools

APRIL SANCHEZ-WILLIAMSON

Corriber-Lipe Middle | Rowan-Salisbury Schools

KEVIN ADAMS

Stanly Early College | Stanly County Schools

CASSIE ELEY

Piedmont Middle | Union County Public Schools

NORTHWEST REGION



JESSIE GRAVEL

Northwest Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Drexel Elementary | Burke County Public Schools

"It is critical that every school leader works to foster and continually hone an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect within the school. As Principal, I must be deliberate, clear, intentional, and transparent when communicating with any and all stakeholders."

- 5 years of administrative experience
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA)
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte (MAT, MSA)
- Western Carolina University (Doctoral Candidate)
- North Carolina Principal Fellow
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 94% of the staff believes there
 is an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect in this school

ORTHWEST REGION WINNERS

ANDY PALMER

Stony Point Elementary | Alexander County Schools

JUSTIN CARVER

Banner Elk Elementary | Avery County Schools

JILL PIPPEN

Collettsville School | Caldwell County Schools

DR. J. RENE SPRY

Oxford Elementary | Catawba County Schools

ANDREA JOHNSON

Longview Elementary | Hickory Public Schools

TRACEY WIDMANN

East McDowell Middle | McDowell County Schools

SHANE WHITENER

Discovery High | Newton-Conover City Schools

PATRICK SUKOW

Blowing Rock Elementary | Watauga County Schools

RODNEY J. GRAHAM

Central Wilkes Middle | Wilkes County Schools

REBECCA FOX

Cane River Middle | Yancey County Schools

WESTERN REGION



RUAFIKA COBB

Western Region Principal of the Year Finalist

Ira B. Jones Elementary | Asheville City School

"I see education as my social justice platform. Every student deserves an excellent education. Students need to be empowered and develop the skills they need to participate in society fully, have choices to be free and independent, and not live their lives feeling they have limited options."

- · 6 years of administrative experience
- Tuskegee University (BS)
- East Tennessee State University (MSA)
- Western Carolina University (Doctoral Candidate)
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice
- Presenter at the Integrated Comprehensive System for Equity National Conference
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 96% of the staff believes teachers are held to high professional standards for delivering instruction

ESTERN REGION WINNERS

DR. JAMIE JOHNSON

North Buncombe Middle | Buncombe County Schools

RUBY ZELINA MALONE CUTSHAW

Andrews Middle | Cherokee County Schools

ALEX MASCIARELLI

Junaluska Elementary | Haywood County Schools

SHANNON AUTEN

Innovative High | Henderson County Public Schools

EVELYN CLARE GRANING

Smoky Mountain High | Jackson County Public Schools

DR. DAVID ROBINSON

Madison High | Madison County Schools

JULIE B. POWELL

Rutherford Opportunity Center | Rutherford County Schools

PATRICK CHAPMAN

T.C. Henderson School of Science and Technology | Transylvania County Schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS



T.J. WORRELL

Charter Schools Principal of the Year Finalist

Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies | Elizabeth City, NC

"Inclusiveness is a core value at NEAAAT, and we believe that all have worth, all are respected, and we go to great lengths to ensure that all have a voice in decision-making. Everyone is a teacher, everyone is a learner, and we all have something of worth to contribute to the collective."

- 8 years of administrative experience
- Western Carolina University (BS)
- Gardner Webb University (MA)
- East Carolina University (Ed.S)
- Participant in NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice in Digital Learning
- Member of North Carolina Technology in Education Society
- According to the 2022 NCTWC survey, 95% of the staff believes the school leadership consistently supports teachers

CHARTER SCHOOLS REGION WINNERS

JIM MONTAGUE

Lakeside CharterAcademy | Cornelius, NC

ELIZABETH READMOND

Quest Academy Charter | Raleigh, NC

CHRISTI WHITESIDE

Endeavor Charter | Wake Forest, NC

2022 REGIONAL FINALISTS

2022 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

· PRINCIPAL of the YEAR



DR. PATRICK GREENE
Southeast Region
Greene Central High

Greene County Schools



ALISON COVINGTON

Northeast Region Principal of the Year
South Greenville Elementary
Pitt County Schools



KEITH RICHARDSON

North Central Region Principal of the Year
Knightdale High
Wake County Public School System



ANTONIO COVINGTON

Sandhills Region Principal of the Year
East Hoke Middle
Hoke County Schools



KATRINKA BROWN
Piedmont-Triad Region Principal of the Year
Jackson Middle
Guilford County Schools



Southwest Region Principal of the Year
Idlewild Elementary
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



Northwest Region Principal of the Year
North Wilkes Middle
Wilkes County Schools



Western Region Principal of the Year Edneyville Elementary Henderson County Public Schools



MARIA MILLS

Charter Schools Principal of the Year
Carolina Charter Academy
Angier, NC

PAST WINNERS

2022	Dr. Patrick Greene, Greene County Schools, Greene Central High
	Dr. Elena Ashburn, Wake County Public School System, ham B. Broughton Magnet High
2020	Kisha Clemons, Newton-Conover City Schools, Shuford Elementary
	Matthew Bristow-Smith, Edgecombe County Public Schools, combe 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, Paige High Alexander Erwin, Wilkes County Schools, Wilkes Central High
Alexander Ciwin, Wilkes County Schools, Wilkes Central High

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

2023

WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA

PRINCIPAL of the YEAR

"Appreciating a diverse community of students and promoting their success means constantly refining our practice by listening to our student body and providing them with the opportunities to succeed. This work is never finished but we proudly celebrate every achievement along the way."

DR. PATRICK GREENE

2022 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

TODAY'S LIVESTREAM POWERED BY



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

The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year process is facilitated by the Office of District & Regional Support.