

A SHOWCASE OF EXCELLENT EDUCATORS



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

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

Burroughs Wellcome Fund — The Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) is a private foundation dedicated to advancing biomedical sciences and supporting the next generation of scientific researchers and educators. With a strong commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in science, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund has made a significant investment in the realm of STEM education. In the past 25 years, BWF has invested more than \$100 million to support initiatives and networks in STEM education. In addition to funding, BWF provides opportunities for interactions with colleagues and engagement with the broader community of educators and grant recipients across other BWF education programs. BWF's focus on support of education highlights the belief in the pivotal role it plays in shaping the future of scientific discovery and addressing complex global challenges.



Bojangles — The Bojangles Foundation was formed in June 2023 to provide support to the communities we serve.

Our main pillars are military and first responders support, literacy and educational support and hometown heroes in the communities we serve. We believe that literacy impacts all individual's ability to make positive contributions to society. It is relevant to both our community and crew to form future leaders. It is our goal to make an impact in the Tar Heel state!

Bojangles Restaurants, Inc. began as the dream of Jack Fulk and Richard Thomas, two veteran restaurant operators who predicted rising consumer demand for good food served in a quick-service environment. They based their concept on three attributes: distinctive flavor, high-quality products made from scratch, and a festive restaurant design with friendly service.



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.



**EQUITABLE
ADVISORS**

Equitable Advisors — 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).



Go Global NC — Go Global NC's mission is to connect North Carolina and the world. Since 1979, Go Global NC has provided transformative programs that

build the capacity of educators, business, community and policy leaders to enable North Carolina to succeed in a global economy and increasingly interdependent world. Go Global NC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to making North Carolina a great place to invest, work, study, visit, partner, and live.



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 NC 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.



NC State Athletics — The mission of the NC State University Department of Athletics is to prepare student-athletes to compete at the highest level and to inspire them to be leaders now and for the future. NC State Athletics provides the best

environment for students to achieve their athletic, academic, and personal aspirations as well as provides support for the professional development of our coaches and staff, all within the role of the greater institutional relationships to the University.

AWARD CEREMONY

— LUNCHEON —

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

GREETINGS

ERIC DAVIS • Chairman, State Board of Education

REMARKS

ALFRED MAYS • Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Program Officer –
Diversity and Education, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

REFLECTIONS

HEATHER SMITH • 2024 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

CELEBRATION OF TEACHERS

JOSH STEIN • Governor of North Carolina

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL FINALISTS

HEATHER SMITH • 2024 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2025 BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

2025 BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CLOSING AND DISMISSAL

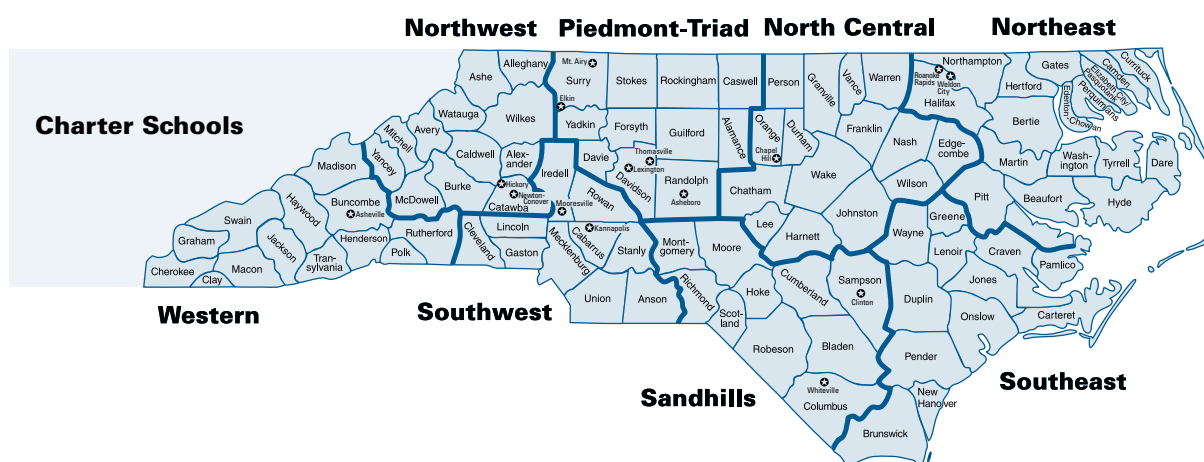
JAMES “MARTY” BULLARD • Regional Vice President, Equitable

Photos immediately following ceremony on terrace for finalists and sponsors

NC TEACHER *of the* YEAR PROGRAM

Since 1970, North Carolina has honored exceptional educators through the Teacher of the Year program. This initiative is dedicated to elevating the teaching profession by recognizing, supporting, and advocating for outstanding teachers. The program highlights exemplary educators who demonstrate best practices in their classrooms, inspiring excellence and contributing to the continued advancement of education across the state.

Each Public School Unit and Charter School may nominate one educator to participate in the regional selection process. North Carolina is divided into eight geographic regions, with charter schools collectively forming a ninth region. The Regional Teachers of the Year form a dedicated team, actively championing the teaching profession through advocacy, professional collaborations, and participation in key initiatives. By engaging with educators and stakeholders alike, they bridge the gap between the classroom and broader educational conversations. Their collective efforts amplify individual impact, fostering a strong network of support and shared leadership among North Carolina's top educators.



2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Selecting the representative and liaison for all teachers in North Carolina is no easy task. Committee members for the state selection are carefully chosen for their proven commitment to supporting education. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education take great pride in honoring the state's most innovative and impactful public school educators. A sincere thank you is extended to the selection team for their time, dedication, and unwavering commitment to celebrating excellence in education.

LISA GODWIN • 2017 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

ALFRED MAYS • Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Program Officer –
Diversity and Education, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

DR. SHANEEKA MOORE-LAWRENCE • President, North Carolina Parent Teacher Association

MAUREEN STOVER • 2020 North Carolina Teacher of the Year; National Finalist

NORTHEAST REGION



RACHEL CANDASO

Northeast Region Teacher of the Year

Wellcome Middle
Pitt County Schools

- **AVID Teacher**
- **5 Years of Teaching Experience**
- **Arizona State University (BS)**
- **Kenan Fellow**
- **Teach for America**
- **Beginning Teacher Mentor**



Northeast REGION WINNERS

CANDI TUCKER

Washington High
Beaufort County Schools

CORROLYN EDWARDS

Colerain Elementary
Bertie County Schools

STEPHANIE BERKOBEN

Camden County High
Camden County Schools

SARAH LEVIN

Moyock Middle
Currituck County Schools

JORDAN REEKES

Manteo Elementary
Dare County Schools

JORICE W. MANUEL

P.W. Moore Elementary
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank
Public Schools

LESLIE KEITH

Gatesville Elementary
Gates County Schools

CAROLINE SYKES-YORK

Northwest Collegiate and
Technical Academy
Halifax County Schools

MARISA SITTERSON

South Creek Middle
Martin County Schools

DWIGHT RAMSEY

Northampton County High
Northampton County Schools

STACEY COLSON PIERCE

Perquimans Central
Perquimans County Schools

AMY PARKER

Clara Hearne Pre-K Center
Roanoke Rapids Graded School District

CHRISTINA HARRIS

Columbia Middle
Tyrrell County Schools

SOUTHEAST REGION



HANNAH MOON

Southeast Region Teacher of the Year

Emsley A. Laney High
New Hanover County Schools

- High School English Teacher
- 20 Years of Teaching Experience
- University of North Carolina Wilmington (BA, M.Ed)
- National Board Certified Teacher
- UNC Morehead Cain Impact Educator
- University of North Carolina Wilmington Master Teacher



Southeast REGION WINNERS

TIFFANY GRAHAM

Town Creek Middle
Brunswick County Schools

DENA BISCHOFF

West Carteret High
Carteret County Public Schools

JOHNICIA SIMMONS

J.T. Barber Elementary
Craven County Schools

JENNY COLEY SASSER

North Duplin Elementary
Duplin County Schools

JOANNE P. DUNCAN

Greene Central High
Greene County Schools

MEGAN PHILLIPS

Jones Senior High
Jones County Schools

ERIN STEWART GREENE

Northwest Elementary
Lenoir County Public Schools

MARISSA BAK

Swansboro Middle
Onslow County Schools

SHERI R. HALE

Pamlico County Middle
Pamlico County Schools

MEGAN JUSTICE

Topsail High
Pender County Schools

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



TAMIKA J. FARMER

North Central Region Teacher of the Year

G. W. Carver Elementary
Edgecombe County Schools

- **Fourth Grade Math and Science Teacher**
- **8 Years of Teaching Experience**
- **East Carolina University (BS)**
- **Beginning Teacher Mentor**
- **LETRS Certified**
- **Resilience Team Member**



North Central REGION WINNERS

ROXANA ROJAS

Seawell Elementary
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

CALEB SMITH

Margaret B. Pollard Middle
Chatham County Schools

1ST SGT. JEFFERY MATTHEWS

Hillside High
Durham Public Schools

RYAN CASH

Edward Best
Franklin County Schools

DANI LABRADA-GRAY

Butner-Stem
Granville County Public Schools

SUSAN DUNN

Triton High
Harnett County Schools

ASHLEY MEMPOLDER

Floyd L. Knight
Lee County Schools

JASMINE WILSON

Nash Rocky Mount Early College
Nash County Public Schools

TERESA THORPE

Pathways Elementary
Orange County Schools

SAMANTHA KELLY

North End Elementary
Person County Schools

JOZETTE M. BROUGHTON

New Hope Elementary
Vance County Schools

RYAN BERGLUND

Millbrook Magnet High
Wake County Public School System

LISA WHEELER

James B. Hunt Jr. High
Wilson County Schools

SANDHILLS REGION



DR. ANTHONY MARTIN

Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year

East Columbus Junior/Senior High
Columbus County Schools

- Technology, Engineering and Design Instructor
- 20 Years of Experience
- Missouri Southern State University (BA)
- University of Missouri (MA)
- University of North Carolina Wilmington (Ed.D.)
- Member of the North Carolina Association for Career and Technical Education
- Partnership with the North Carolina Business Committee for Education



Sandhills REGION WINNERS

TRACY WILKINS MILLER

Bladenboro Primary
Bladen County Schools

SANDRA GILBERT CANNADY

Langdon C. Kerr Elementary
Clinton City Schools

ALI SIGLER

Elizabeth Cashwell Elementary
Cumberland County Schools

BETH ALDERSON

Rockfish Hoke Elementary
Hoke County Schools

RUBY PARSONS

Montgomery Learning Academy
Montgomery County Schools

SHANNON BATES

Elise Middle
Moore County Schools

SARAH GRIFFIN-GREENE

Rowland-Norment Elementary
Public Schools of Robeson County

JENNIFER LEE

East Rockingham Elementary
Richmond County Schools

ANGELA TURLINGTON

Midway Middle
Sampson County Schools

SASHA-GAY GREEN

Scotland High
Scotland County Schools

ROBIN ENGLISH

Whiteville Primary
Whiteville City Schools

PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION



CHANEL JONES

Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year

Broadview Middle
Alamance-Burlington School System

- Social Studies Teacher
- 7 Years of Teaching Experience
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (BA)
- East Carolina University (Post Baccalaureate Teacher Certification)
- SIOP Certified
- ABSS Generation AI Champion
- Restorative Justice Facilitator



Piedmont-Triad REGION WINNERS

REBECCA KIDD

Charles W. McCrary
Asheboro City Schools

DANYA COBB DIGGS

North Elementary
Caswell County Schools

HANNAH ADKINS

North Davidson Middle
Davidson County Schools

CARMEN LAWRENCE

Cooleemee Elementary
Davie County Schools

JEFF SILVERTHORNE

Western Guilford High
Guilford County Schools

SHERIANN JENNINGS

Southwest Elementary
Global Academy
Lexington City Schools

ABBY GALLIMORE

Mount Airy High
Mount Airy City Schools

ELIZABETH TILLERY

Trinity High
Randolph County Schools

CRYSTAL GOLDEN

John M. Morehead High
Rockingham County Schools

RAFAL M. JURKIEWICZ

South Stokes High
Stokes County Schools

KELLIE HUNTER

Flat Rock Elementary
Surry County Schools

RICHELLE RADER

Liberty Drive Elementary
Thomasville City Schools

ELLEN NICHOLS HEFNER

Robert B. Glenn High
Winston Salem/Forsyth
County Schools

SOUTHWEST REGION



YARONDA KILGO

Southwest Region Teacher of the Year

Wingate Elementary
Union County Public Schools

- First Grade Teacher
- 7 Years of Teaching Experience
- Belmont Abbey College (BA)
- Grand Canyon University (M.Ed)
- Beginning Teacher Mentor
- LETRS Certified
- Institute for Child Development Professional Member



Southwest REGION WINNERS

LUKE HYATT

Anson Middle
Anson County Schools

CALEB SNELL

Hickory Ridge High School
Cabarrus County Schools

ELIZABETH CANUTE

Tuckaseegee Elementary
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

JESSICA MCSWAIN

Boiling Springs Elementary
Cleveland County Schools

BRANDON TAYLOR

East Gaston High
Gaston County Schools

ADRIAN BOWIE

Woodland Heights Elementary
Iredell-Statesville Schools

ALLISON GRAINDA

Forest Park Elementary
Kannapolis City Schools

KATHY BOSIAK

Lincolnton High
Lincoln County Schools

BRANDON LANE

Landis Elementary
Rowan Salisbury Schools

RON GEORGE

North Stanly High
Stanly County Schools

NORTHWEST REGION



TAYLER BOMAR

Northwest Region Teacher of the Year

Greenlee Primary
Mitchell County Schools

- **Second Grade Teacher**
- **5 Years of Teaching Experience**
- **East Tennessee State University (BS)**
- **Apple Certified Teacher**
- **LETRS Certified**
- **MTSS Team Member**



Northwest REGION WINNERS

RON ROBINETTE

West Alexander Middle
Alexander County Schools

JIM ASHLEY

Ashe County Early College
Ashe County Schools

KRISTEN HECKLE

Avery County High
Avery County Schools

DANIEL GUTIERREZ

Freedom High
Burke County Public Schools

M. BRENT TOMBERLIN II

South Caldwell High
Caldwell County Schools

ROBBIN ISENHOUR-STEWART

St. Stephens High
Catawba County Schools

DONNA DANNER

W.M. Jenkins Elementary
Hickory Public Schools

JOSEPH HILL

McDowell High
McDowell County Schools

GREG HARDY

Newton-Conover High
Newton-Conover City Schools

LARA WHITESIDE

Blowing Rock School
Watauga County Schools

BREANNA WOOTEN

Wilkes Central High
Wilkes County Schools

LEIGH DAVIS

East Yancey Middle
Yancey County Schools

WESTERN REGION



LYDIA SALE

Western Region Teacher of the Year

West Elementary
Swain County Schools

- First Grade Teacher
- 5 Years of Teaching Experience
- Belmont Abbey College (BA)
- LETRS Certified
- Leadership Team Co-Coordinator
- Varsity Volleyball Coach
- Member of the International Literacy Association



Western REGION WINNERS

KELLI MADKINS

Asheville Middle
Asheville City Schools

MARTHA TALLENT

Enka Middle
Buncombe County Schools

JENNI CABLE

Andrews Middle
Cherokee County Schools

SUSAN W. REXROAD

Hayesville Elementary
Clay County Schools

ANDREA ADAMS

Robbinsville High
Graham County Schools

STEPHANIE MORGAN

Pisgah High
Haywood County Schools

KELLI STEPP

West Henderson High
Henderson County Schools

KATIE RAY

Smoky Mountain High
Jackson County Public Schools

EMILY WILSON

Macon Middle
Macon County Schools

DIANE BRABANT

Hot Springs Elementary
Madison County Schools

ERIC EATON

Polk County Middle
Polk County Schools

TAYLOR WILSON

Chase High
Rutherford County Schools

DUSTY MORGAN

Rosman Middle
Transylvania County Schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS



LINDSAY PHILLIPS

Charter Schools Teacher of the Year

Mountain Island Charter
Mount Holly, NC

- Kindergarten Teacher
- 19 Years of Teaching Experience
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte (BA)
- National Board Certified
- LETRS Certified
- Beginning Teacher Mentor



Charter Schools REGION WINNERS

MARY WRAY

ArtSpace Charter School
Swannanoa, NC

BETH HAWK

Carolina Charter Academy
Angier, NC

ANGELA KINCAID

Chatham Charter
Siler City, NC

KAYLA DELLINGER

Envision Science Academy
Wake Forest, NC

JULIE CARLINNIA

Evergreen Community Charter
Asheville, NC

JEFF CRAYTON

IC Imagine Public Charter School
Asheville, NC

DEMI CKEZEPIS

Lake Norman Charter
Huntersville, NC

KARI FERRIS

Lincoln Charter School
Lincolnton, NC

LISA RAGLAND

North Carolina Cyber Academy
Durham, NC

CAITLIN MCDONALD

Northeast Academy for Aerospace
and Advanced Technologies
Elizabeth City, NC

EMILY SHEARIN

Oxford Preparatory
Oxford, NC

AMANDA CARTER

Roxboro Community School
Roxboro, NC

HEATHER BLUM

Socrates Academy
Matthews, NC

CARA SCHAEFER

Union Academy
Monroe, NC

RACHEL CASHATT

Uwharrie Charter Academy
Asheboro, NC

ANA-MARIA TOPLICEANU

Vance Charter
Henderson, NC

2024 REGIONAL FINALISTS



HEATHER SMITH

**Western Region
Teacher of the Year**

Waynesville Middle School
Haywood County Schools

- Middle School Math Teacher
- 7 Years of Teaching Experience
- Western Carolina University (BA)
- National Board Certified
- WCU's Outstanding Clinical Educator
- Chair of the Sunshine Committee
- Grade Level Chair



ANITA RUBINO-THOMAS

Northeast Region Teacher of the Year
Currituck County High School
Currituck County Schools



NARDI ROUTTEN

Southeast Region Teacher of the Year
Creekside Elementary School
Craven County Schools



RACHEL BRACKNEY

North Central Region Teacher of the Year
SouthWest Edgecombe High School
Edgecombe County Schools



JENNIFER BLAKE

Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year
Carthage Elementary School
Moore County Schools



WILL MARRS

Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year
Davie County High School
Davie County Schools



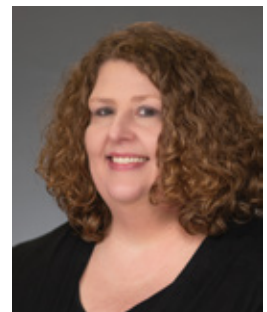
SARAH LEFEBVRE

Southwest Region Teacher of the Year
Health Science Academy at
Monroe Middle School
Union County Public Schools



ERIK MORTENSEN

Northwest Region Teacher of the Year
Watauga High School
Watauga County Schools



LEE HAYWOOD

Charter Schools Teacher of the Year
Uwharrie Charter Academy
Asheboro, NC

PAST WINNERS


2023 Kimberly Jones , Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, 10th Grade English	2001 Carmen Wilson , Ashe County Schools, Mathematics, High School	1980 Linda Lee , Burlington City Schools, (Alamance Co.), English, High School
2022 Leah Carper , Guilford County Schools, English II, High School	2000 Laura Bilbro-Berry , Beaufort County Schools, 2nd Grade	1979 Jo Ann Payne Norris , Wake County Schools, 1st Grade
2021 Eugenia Floyd , Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, 4th Grade	1999 Kimberly H. Hughes , Wake County Schools, Kindergarten	1978 Ruth P. Watkins , Richmond County Schools, Social Studies, High School
2020 *Maureen Stover , Cumberland County Schools, Biology, 9th-10th grade	1998 Rebecca O. Hoyle , Onslow County Schools, Music, Grades K-5	1977 Ted Scott Henson , Vance County Schools, Language Arts/Social Studies, 5th Grade
2019 Mariah Morris , Moore County Schools, 2nd Grade	1997 Julian L. Coggins, Jr. , Cabarrus County Schools, Science, High School	1976 *Ruby Murchison , Fayetteville City Schools, (Cumberland Co.), Language Arts/Social Studies, 7th Grade
2018 Freebird McKinney , Alamance-Burlington Schools, History/Philosophy, High School	1996 Richard Scott Griffin , Gaston County Schools, 5th Grade	1975 Herman L. Forbes , High Point City Schools, (Guilford Co.), 6th Grade
2017 Lisa Godwin , Onslow County Schools, Kindergarten	1995 Vernestine Kent Taylor , Wilson County Schools, Mathematics, High School	1974 Frances A. Kiser , Cleveland County Schools, English, High School
2016 Bobbie J. Cavnar , Gaston County Schools, English/Journalism, High School	1994 Sandra C. Wells , Asheville City Schools, (Buncombe Co.), Team Teacher, 1st & 4th Grades	1973 *Sarah E. Spivey , Raleigh City Schools, (Wake Co.), 4th-5th Grade
2015 Keana C. Triplett , Ashe County Schools, English, High School	1993 **Sarah M. Pratt , McDowell County Schools, English/Social Studies, High School	1972 *James M. "Jay" Rogers , Durham City Schools, (Durham Co.), American History/Black Studies, High School
2014 James E. Ford , Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, World History, High School	1992 Dixie F. Abernathy , Gaston County Schools, Science, Junior High School	1971 Genella Allison , Hickory City Schools, (Catawba Co.), English/Journalism, High School
2013 Karyn Collie Dickerson , Guilford County Schools, English, High School	1991 Annie Pegram , Durham City Schools, (Durham Co.), 1st Grade	1970 *John McFadden , Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, 6th Grade
2012 Darcy Grimes , Watauga County Schools, 3rd Grade	1990 Louis Gottlieb , Granville County Schools, Science, High School	
2011 Tyronna Hooker , Alamance-Burlington Schools, EC Inclusion, Grades 6-8	1989 Sandra Davis Rogers , Rowan County Schools, 1st-3rd Grades	
2010 Jennifer J. Facciolini , Sampson County Schools, Social Studies, High School	1988 Merv Sessoms , Haywood County Schools, English, High School	
2009 Jessica Garner , Union County Public Schools, Spanish, High School	1987 Cynthia B. Zeger-Ostherhus , Salisbury City Schools, (Rowan Co.), Mathematics, High School	
2008 *Cindi Rigsbee , Orange County Schools, Reading, Middle School	1986 *Donna H. Oliver , Burlington City Schools, (Alamance Co.), Science, High School	
2007 James Bell , Edenton-Chowan Public Schools, Language Arts, 8th Grade	1985 Pamela F. Brewer , Person County Schools, English/Journalism, High School	
2006 Diana Beasley , Hickory City Schools, Biology, High School	1984 Phillip R. Dail , Wake County Schools, Science, High School	
2005 Wendy Miller , Craven County Schools, Grades K-2	1983 Jean Paul Powell , Clinton City Schools, (Sampson Co.), English, 12th Grade	
2004 Lizbeth Alfaro , Catawba County Schools, ESL, Grades K-6	1982 James Jerome Williams , Burke County Schools, Music, High School	
2003 Allison Ormond , Rockingham County Schools, Language Arts/Social Studies, 7th Grade	1981 Penelope Sue Smith , Asheboro City Schools, (Randolph Co.), Humanities, High School	
2002 *Melissa Bartlett , Iredell-Statesville Schools, English, High School		



“My students have taught me that our circumstances do not have to define our outcomes. That is why I believe that it is my job as an educator and my hope for all educators to show students the relevance of what is happening in our classroom and connect it to their life outside of the classroom, allowing students to learn the skills to be successful and kind human beings to thrive in the world around them.”

HEATHER SMITH

2024 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

TODAY'S LIVESTREAM POWERED BY  **EQUITABLE**
ADVISORS

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

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year process is facilitated by the Office of the State Superintendent.