

# 2012-2013 North Carolina TEACHER OF THE YEAR

*May 3, 2012*



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM



For more than 50 years our nation has honored teachers with the National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the ING Foundation, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Since 1970, North Carolina has participated in this program recognizing outstanding teachers. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, along with its sponsors, administers the program at the state level.

In accordance with national guidelines, North Carolina chooses a candidate who is “dedicated and highly skilled, a candidate proven capable of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.” Because the State Teacher of the Year will be asked to travel, speak on behalf of education and demonstrate master teaching skills, the candidate must be poised, articulate, and energetic in order to meet the demanding responsibilities.

The program recognizes teachers at the school, local, regional and statewide levels. After Individuals are chosen to represent their respective school as Teacher of the Year, they advance to compete at the local district level. Once that selection has been made, district Teachers of the Year vie for one-of-eight North Carolina Regional Teacher of the Year honors. Simultaneously, representatives from the public charter schools are screened to determine the Charter School Teacher of the Year, and the charter school designee is the ninth finalist who moves to the final phase of the state selection process.

After a series of relevant screening activities, the State Teacher of the Year is chosen by a committee consisting of professional educators as well business and community leaders. The State Teacher of the Year and the other Regional Finalists form a collaborative network to provide ongoing professional development and support throughout the state on critical issues facing public education.

In the 40 years of the program in North Carolina, three State Teachers of the Year have become National winners. Four have become National Finalists and one has been inducted into the National Teachers’ Hall of Fame. Thirteen North Carolina Teachers of the Year have taught at the elementary school level, eight at the middle or junior high school level and twenty-one at the high school level.

# LUNCHEON & AWARDS CEREMONY

*May 3, 2012*

## **WELCOME**

**Brandon Patterson**

Assistant Director, Educator Recruitment and Development Division,  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

## **GREETINGS**

**Dr. June Atkinson**

State Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

## **RECOGNITION OF THE SELECTION TEAM and REGIONAL FINALISTS**

**Brandon Patterson and Regional Education Facilitators/Office of Charter Schools**

## **INVOCATION**

**Rob Jackson**

2011 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

## **LUNCH**

## **REMARKS**

**Mr. Wayne McDevitt**

Vice Chairman, State Board of Education

**Governor Beverly Perdue**

**Stephanie Caplan**

Communications Director, North Carolina Center for International Understanding

**Ginger Rutherford**

Education Solutions Specialist, SMART Technologies

## **REFLECTIONS**

**Tyronna Hooker**

2011-2012 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Alamance-Burlington Schools

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**Dr. June Atkinson**

## **ACCEPTANCE REMARKS**

2012-2013 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Brandon Patterson**

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



## **FLOW AUTOMOTIVE, LLC**

**Don Flow**, CEO, of Winston-Salem donated a one-year lease on a vehicle for the North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Support of the recognition program highlights the company's appreciation and commitment to public education and teachers across our state. The Department of Public Instruction greatly appreciates their generosity.



## **SMART TECHNOLOGIES**

Over the last ten years SMART Technologies has honorably supported the State Teachers of the Year recognition programs across the United States through the Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) Program. SMART Technologies understands how important a seamless integration of technology products is to a successful learning environment for today's generation of educators and those to come in the future. In support of this vision, the company donates a comprehensive technology package to the North Carolina Teacher of the Year designee and a secondary package for the other eight regional finalists.



## **THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING**

The Center for International Understanding is an educational organization promoting global competence and awareness among current and future leaders in North Carolina. The Center is part of the University of North Carolina system, and since 1995, it has provided study abroad opportunities and school partnership programs to help educators bring the world to North Carolina classrooms. Through their global experiences, teachers from all grade levels and all subject areas bring a global perspective to the classroom and ignite an interest in communicating, cooperating and competing with the world. In all, more than 600 North Carolina teachers have traveled to 12 countries with The Center for International Understanding.



## **2012–2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTION COMMITTEE**

### **NC SENATOR HOWARD LEE**

Founder and President,  
*Howard N Lee Institute for Equity and Opportunity  
in Education*  
Former NC State Board of Education Chair

### **JAN RIGGSBEE, Ed.D.**

Director and Chair, Program in Education  
*Duke University*

### **JENNIFER FACCIOLINI**

2010-2011 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year  
*Sampson County Schools*

### **REGINA JOHNSTON**

2011-2012 North Carolina Charter School  
Teacher of the Year  
*Chatham Community Charter*

### **TAWANNAH ALLEN, Ed.D. – EX OFFICIO**

Associate Professor, Department of  
Educational Leadership  
*Fayetteville State University*

### **TYRONNA HOOKER – EX OFFICIO**

2011-2012 North Carolina Teacher of the Year  
*Alamance Burlington School System*

In compliance with federal law, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to: Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer Academic Services and Instructional Support :: 6368 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6368 :: Telephone: (919) 807-3200 :: Fax: (919) 807-4065

# 2011-2012 TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM

**2011-2012  
NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR**



**Tyronna Hooker**  
Piedmont/Triad Central Region  
Alamance-Burlington Schools



**Suzie Sanders**  
Northeast Region  
Elizabeth City/Pasquotank  
Public Schools



**Callie Smith**  
Southeast Region  
Carteret County Schools



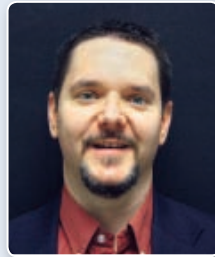
**Ferdinand Cooper**  
North Central Region  
Weldon City Schools



**Marci Houseman**  
Sandhills/South Central  
Region  
Moore County Schools



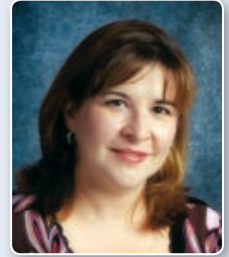
**Thomas Plecnik**  
Southwest Region  
Gaston County Schools



**Andy Blevins**  
Northwest Region  
Catawba County Schools

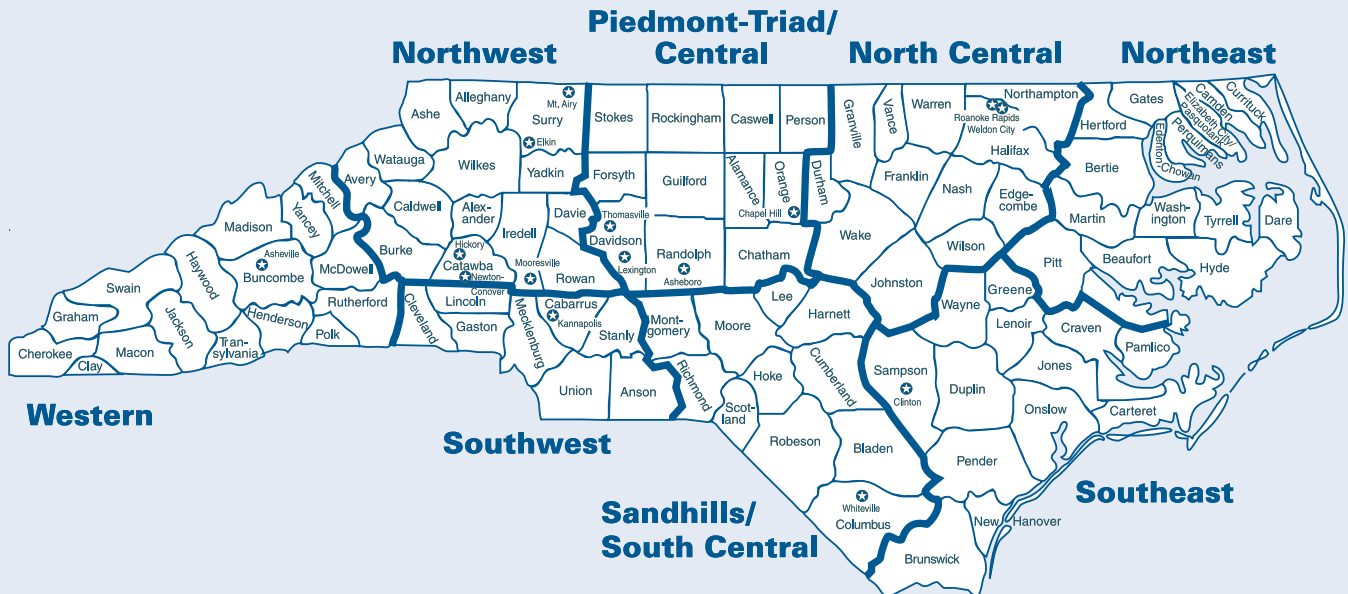


**Eric Grant**  
Western Region  
Bruncombe County Schools



**Regina Johnston**  
Charter Schools  
Chatham Charter School

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR REGIONAL MAP





# LISA STAATS

NORTHEAST REGION

*Beaufort County Schools*

## ASSIGNMENT

Grade 8 Teacher  
Chocowinity Middle School  
Chocowinity, NC

## EXPERIENCE

15 years, 12 years in current position  
Teacher, Beaufort County Schools,  
North Carolina  
Teacher, Pitt County Schools, North Carolina

## EDUCATION

East Carolina University, M.A. in  
Mathematics Education  
East Carolina University, B.A. in  
Elementary Education

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Northeast Region Teacher of the Year  
2011-2012  
Beaufort County Schools Teacher of the Year,  
2011-2012  
Chocowinity Middle School Teacher of the  
Year, 2011-2012  
Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship, 2009  
HP Technology for Teaching Grant, 2004

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Council of Teachers of  
Mathematics, ECU, 2010-present  
National Council of Teachers of  
Mathematics, 2009-2010  
North Carolina Department of Public  
Instruction, Division of Accountability  
Services, 2004-present

I believe one of the things which “drew” me into education was my overall positive educational experience. I was not always the most gifted, but I worked hard and was soon able to compensate for my shortcomings. My teachers always praised me for my hard work and dedication. However, a very good friend of mine always struggled. We went to school from elementary through high school together. She never got the help or guidance she needed from her teachers. Often, she would come to my house or call me on the phone for help with assignments, especially Math. She would tell me I explained it better or easier than her teacher. I always wondered how I could do it “better.” I tucked this memory in the back of my head for years and eventually went into education with a plan to find that “thing” to help all students learn.

I will always advocate for my students. I have not met a student that could not learn or that I could not teach. I have taught students who had been taught Mathematics in an Exceptional Children (EC) Resource setting for three or four years before being placed in my inclusion class. This transition was a huge change for them, but they became active participants and eager learners. I have the advantage of looping with my EC students—an amazing gift because I get to see them grow exponentially in ability and self-confidence.

One might think getting my Master’s degree as a single parent while working full time was my biggest accomplishment, but it’s not. My greatest accomplishment wasn’t actually even mine, it was a student’s. I was fortunate to teach Math to one particular student from the sixth through the eighth grade. Initially, he was a struggling, with little confidence in his ability to learn. When he left eighth grade, however, he was one of my strongest students, and he helped other students who were struggling. In the end, the student passed the End of Grade Tests (EOGs) with a level 3 or 4, but the confidence he gained was priceless.

My rewards come yearly in different forms – watching my seventh graders mature into eighth graders, finding a sense of who they are as a student and as a person, or witnessing students tackle a Math problem with confidence. Some students “see the light” and grow double-digits on the EOG for the first time, or even better, pass for the first time. This year I received my most memorable reward of all. A student I taught for two years made a video of her and other students stating what they would miss from my class. I will cherish it forever!

Education is the stepping stone in equipping our students for success with 21st century skills. We as educators are the ones preparing the future of our nation, and it is our job to instill in them and their families the impact education will have on their future.

# REGION 1 *Northeast*



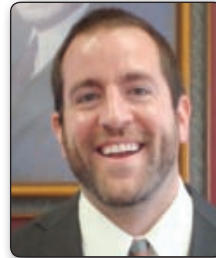
**Sheila Parker**  
*Bertie County Schools*



**Cristie Fields**  
*Camden County Schools*



**Jessica Balltzglier**  
*Edenton/Chowan County  
Schools*



**James Bryson**  
*Currituck County Schools*



**Chavaleh Wetzel**  
*Dare County Schools*



**Lori Lories**  
*Gates County Schools*



**Justin Frederes**  
*Hertford County Schools*



**Sherri Cox**  
*Hyde County Schools*



**Patrick Herring IV**  
*Martin County Schools*



**Amy Jo Spencer**  
*Elizabeth City/Pasquotank  
County Schools*



**Jason Griffin**  
*Perquimans County Schools*



**Kurt Garner**  
*Pitt County Schools*



**Donna Whitfield**  
*Washington County Schools*

*"I have several beliefs about education and teaching. One of the most important is that education is a team sport. Without all the players (parents, students, all teachers, administration, support staff, etc.) working together, it is hard to be successful."*

**– LISA STAATS**



# MELISSA WARREN

SOUTHEAST REGION

*Brunswick County Schools*

## ASSIGNMENT

Grades 9 and 10, English I and II  
South Brunswick High  
Southport, NC

## EXPERIENCE

Communications 150 Effective Essay Writing  
Axia College of University of Phoenix,  
Online Campus

## EDUCATION

Masters of Secondary Education/English,  
December 2007  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
Bachelor of Arts in English Education, May  
2002  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2011-2012 Southeastern Regional Teacher of  
the Year  
2009 National Board Certification in  
Adolescence and Young Adulthood English  
Language Arts  
Completion of the North Carolina  
Initially Licensed Teacher Program  
Graduated Magna Cum Laude UNCW 2002  
and 2007  
North Carolina Teaching Fellows Recipient

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Council of English Teachers

Both of my little brothers dropped out of high school. Although both are bright young men, they now face the tragedy of not being able to attain their life desires because they do not hold high school diplomas. Their stories are my motivation to teach. I hope to empower and retain bright students who may otherwise choose a negative path for their lives. The challenge I face as an educator is proving that school is relevant. To meet this challenge, I ask my students to write a short, narrative snapshot of their lives, to capture just one moment that has defined them.

Students read these stories to the class, and then we publish the narratives online and in a bound book. I have collected seven volumes of students' stories. Students have shared stories of victory, travel, injury, cancer, rape, death, divorce, and every other imaginable human experience. These stories are raw, bold, and honest. Some are incredibly uplifting, and some are sickeningly gut-wrenching. All are real. This year one student wrote, "I need to be better than them. I need to prove everyone that thinks, 'He'll be just like them' wrong. I can get an education, something my dad never had... I can choose to make the right decisions...I will be nothing like them, I am me."

Sharing, reflecting, and connecting allow students to see themselves clearly and with pride; it helps them understand and care about those around them. The guidance of a good teacher helps students find their humanity and establish their identity. I can honestly say that I wake-up every day and try my best to embody what I believe to be a good teacher. I wish to help my students grow as individuals, but first and foremost, I wish to protect and nurture what already exists in each student. As humans, we naturally yearn to communicate. I enhance that desire in students; I do not squash it.

The rewards I reap from this profession are boundless, but my favorites are the laughs from my students and the lessons they teach me. My students teach me how to be a strong, caring human. Through their writing and their struggles, they exemplify resilience. They give me hugs, high-fives, and smiles. They make it fun to wake up in the morning, and they are teaching me how to use my iPhone. I change and grow each day because of them, and I hope I can offer them a little of the love they bring to my life.



# REGION 2

## *Southeast*



**Antonio Diaz**  
*Carteret County Schools*



**Janet Carter**  
*Clinton City Schools*



**Roneca Wallace**  
*Craven County Schools*



**Cynthia Wallace**  
*Duplin County Schools*



**Kimberly Taybron**  
*Greene County Schools*



**Jacqueline Lanier**  
*Jones County Schools*



**Melissa Southerland**  
*Lenoir County Schools*



**Rachael Moser**  
*New Hanover County Schools*



**Jennifer Hardy**  
*Onslow County Schools*



**Cara Shelton**  
*Pamlico County Schools*



**Suzanna Bolin**  
*Pender County Schools*



**Andrea Bell**  
*Sampson County Schools*



**Jennifer Tyndall**  
*Wayne County Schools*

*"Education is the quest for identity. We are all ultimately the composition of our ideas and beliefs. If we as a society want to solve social problems, curb global warming, and work toward peace, we need citizens who know who they are, what they stand for, and how to create change."*

**– MELISSA WARREN**



# MALINDA PENNINGTON

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

### *Wilson County Schools*

#### **ASSIGNMENT**

**Grades 6-8, EC Autism Inclusion**  
**Toisnot Middle School**  
**Wilson, NC**

#### **EXPERIENCE**

18 years, 3 years in current position  
EC Teacher, Wilson County Schools  
Autism Consultant and Presenter  
Adjunct Professor, Dept of Education, Barton College, Wilson, NC  
EC Teacher, Wake County Public Schools  
Autism Specialist, Metro-Nashville Public Schools, TN  
EC Teacher, Metro-Nashville Public Schools, TN  
Educational Consultant, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN  
EC Teacher, Rochester Public Schools, MN  
EC Teacher, Wake County Public Schools

#### **EDUCATION**

NC State University, Enrolled, Doctoral Program, Curriculum and Instruction, 2011  
NC State University, Master of Education, Special Education, 1994  
NC State University, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, 1991

#### **RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS**

Wilson County Schools Teacher of the Year, 2011-2012  
Teacher of Excellence Award, Wilson County Schools, Exceptional Children's Division NCDPI, 2011-2012  
Toisnot Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2011-2012  
Teaching Excellence Award, Cary Honor a Teacher Program, 2008  
TEACCH Training Team Member, 2008  
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Early Childhood through Young Adult/Exceptional Needs Specialist, 2007

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

National Education Association  
North Carolina Association of Educators

During my college years, autism was still considered more an oddity for psychologists and not necessarily an issue for educators. As a senior psychology major, I was assigned a year-long internship in a classroom for children with autism. I was immediately fascinated by the unique qualities of the children's exceptionality. Trying to see the world through their eyes was exhilarating! After a few weeks, I had a life-changing experience. As I assisted a six-year-old with autism, he read the sentence, "The cookies are in the oven." He paused. He looked at the picture and excitedly said, "It says the cookies are in the oven and, look (pointing), the cookies are in the oven!" He had made his first connection in reading, setting upon a life-long path of learning. In addition, I had played a small part. I was hooked.

Every day since, my students are my reason for being a teacher. I love watching each child expand his or her skills and confidence as the child ventures into the school and larger community. Creating opportunities for their increased acceptance and involvement is my proudest achievement in education.

My role in this achievement is to be a facilitator, translator, and motivator. As a facilitator, I seek opportunities for my students to be accepted members of their school. I use their interests and strengths to pick the activity which will allow them to shine among their peers. Today, my students are active in student government, clubs, sports, the band, and more. As a translator, I strive to help both the child with autism understand the social world around him and the typical student understand the unique qualities of autism. We discover we are more alike than different! As a motivator, I assure my students each day that I believe in them, and I believe they are smart. I also make sure they know I will keep them safe.

My reward comes in seeing their pride and confidence grow. I love hearing a student say "I did it all by myself!" One of my cherished memories is of the day a student made the final transition from a self-contained setting to a full-inclusion class. As we carried his possessions down the hall to his new room, he looked up at me and said, "I'm a regular kid now!" Overcome with emotion, all I could say was, "Yes, you are!"

Outside of the classroom, I have discovered the excitement in helping others learn to work with autism. In the role of adjunct professor, I enjoy cultivating the passion and skills to teach children with special needs into pre-service teachers, hopefully affecting a lifetime of children. To pursue this ideal, I have enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Curriculum and Instruction at NC State University. As a trainer and presenter, I have had the honor to help teachers and their students in several states and internationally. Everywhere I have been, accents may change, but the children are the same. They respond to understanding hearts and open minds.

# REGION 3

## North Central



**Jason Jowers**  
*Durham County Schools*



**Susie Davis**  
*Edgecombe County Schools*



**Brian McDowell**  
*Franklin County Schools*



**Janita Allen**  
*Granville County Schools*



**Tammy Hedgepeth**  
*Halifax County Schools*



**Randy Parker**  
*Johnston County Schools*



**Marie Mullins**  
*Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools*



**Monté Freeman**  
*Northampton County Schools*



**Ellen Bryant**  
*Roanoke Rapids City Schools*



**Peggy Price**  
*Vance County Schools*



**Stephanie Rhodes**  
*Wake County Schools*



**Cheryl Sebrell**  
*Warren County Schools*



**Michael Hawkins, Jr.**  
*Weldon City Schools*

*"I love sharing my passion for teaching with others through collaboration and instruction. Helping other professionals increase their understanding of special needs gives me a thrill and opens doors for all children."*

**– MALINDA PENNINGTON**



# KARRIE DETWILER

## SANDHILLS/SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

### *Hoke County Schools*

#### **ASSIGNMENT**

**Grades 6-12 Art Teacher**  
**J W Turlington Alternative School**  
**Raeford, NC**

#### **EXPERIENCE**

4 years ; 4 years in current position  
Teacher, Hoke County Schools, Raeford, NC  
Metalsmithing Instructor, ArtSpace, Carrboro, NC  
English Instructor, Havad, Capinas, Brazil  
Art Instructor, Goshen Parks, Goshen, Indiana

#### **EDUCATION**

University of North Carolina at Pembroke,  
Masters in Art Education, Ongoing  
East Carolina University, Non Degree Seeking  
Art Education, 2010  
Indiana University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2006

#### **RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS**

2011-2012 Sandhills Regional Teacher of the Year  
2011-2012 North Carolina Rookie Art Teacher of  
the Year, NCAEA  
2011-2012 Teacher of the Year, Hoke County  
School District  
2011-2012 Teacher of the Year, J.W. Turlington  
Alternative School  
2011 Hoke County Merit Award, Hoke County  
Public Library  
2009 & 2010 Partners in Education Mini-Grants  
2011 Golden Apple Awards from Progress Energy  
2009 "The Picturing America" National  
Endowment for the Humanities Grant  
2008 "Spotlight on Success Award" by the  
Hoke County Board of Education

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

National Art Honors Society, Member since 1995  
The Society of North American Goldsmiths,  
Member since 2000  
NC Turkey Festival, Board Member since 2011  
Hoke County Schools, Cultural Arts Director  
since 2011  
North Carolina Art Education Association  
(NCAEA), Member since 2008

The factors that influenced me to become a teacher began with my parents' and grandparents' influence. They were all artists, and this profoundly affected my outlook on life. They encouraged freedom in mind and spirit. Therefore, the world became my classroom, and my education from it was creative and exciting. My family's support throughout my schooling was imperative because I was identified as learning disabled in elementary school; this label followed me into my college experience. The loving environment of my family enabled me to develop a creative learning style along with an enthusiasm for education, which helped me overcome and compensate for my learning disability. My mother was especially passionate about education and broadening horizons. She was a driving force in my desire to excel. She wanted all of her children to go beyond the limitations of our surroundings. This goal greatly influenced me once I realized my calling to be an educator. It has influenced me to use education as a vehicle to the broader world.

While studying for my undergraduate degree, I taught "Art in the Park" for a year at Goshen Parks and Recreation in Indiana. This enriching experience encouraged me to consider art education as a major. During my junior year of study, I was able to participate in an independent study with a professor in Athens, Georgia. Dr. Farlowe's passion for teaching transcended the classroom. and it was infectious!

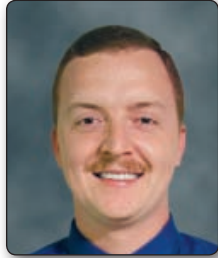
Afterward, I received a scholarship that allowed me to study fine arts abroad in Brazil. This experience opened my eyes to other rich cultures and gave me a renewed appreciation for my own. While there, I taught English as a Second Language for two years. This experience addressed my greatest fears and struggles, as reading and writing were my learning disabilities. I overcame those fears and felt confident in my ability to impart knowledge—even English! Yet, my passion lies in the arts, and I found it while teaching a metal-smithing class to adult learners in Carrboro, N.C. After that, I was hooked! My childhood, my college experience, and my post-graduate teaching led me to seek education as a permanent adventure, one that I have embraced fully and have never regretted!

# REGION 4

## *Sandhills/South Central*



**Elizabeth Cole**  
*Bladen County Schools*



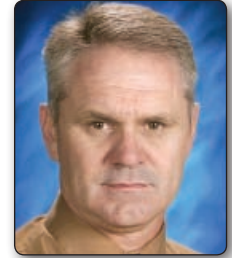
**Nicky Hobbs**  
*Columbus County Schools*



**Dewana Holt**  
*Cumberland County Schools*



**Andy Cole**  
*Harnett County Schools*



**Vincent Pienaar**  
*Lee County Schools*



**Mary Gilman**  
*Montgomery County Schools*



**Tracy Metcalf**  
*Moore County Schools*



**Mark Burr**  
*Richmond County Schools*



**Jason Bullock**  
*Robeson County Schools*



**Katie Clark**  
*Scotland County Schools*



**Pamela Sutton**  
*Whiteville City Schools*

*“...The classroom does not begin nor does it end with the four walls. Teachers must make a conscious effort to utilize the community for authentic learning experiences. If it truly takes a village to raise a child, then it must take a whole community to educate one.”*

**– KARRIE DETWILER**



# JENNIFER ARBERG

PIEDMONT-TRIAD/CENTRAL REGION  
*Guilford County Schools*

## ASSIGNMENT

Grade 6 Math Teacher  
Kiser Middle School  
Greensboro, NC

## EXPERIENCE

16 years; 5 years in current position  
Teacher, Guilford County Schools,  
2007-present  
Teacher, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles,  
2005-2007  
Teacher, Lee County Schools, 1996-2005

## EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Greensboro,  
Masters of Education, Secondary Math  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte,  
Graduate Certificate, Gifted Education  
Appalachian State University, Bachelor of  
Arts, Elementary Education

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2012 Piedmont-Triad Central Region Teacher  
of the Year  
2012 Guilford County Teacher of the Year  
2012 Guilford County Middle School Teacher  
of the Year  
2011 Teacher of the Year, Kiser Middle School  
2009 Teacher of the Year, Kiser Middle School  
2007 Middle School Teacher of the Year,  
International School of Curacao  
2004 Fulbright Memorial Fund Award  
recipient, Japan  
2003 Lee County NCAGT (Academically and  
Intellectually Gifted) Teacher of the Year  
2001 Teacher of the Year, Tramway  
Elementary, Sanford, NC

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Council for Teachers of  
Mathematics  
National Council for Teachers of Mathematics

Teaching is a journey that should not be embarked upon lightly. It requires you to be not only an educator, but sometimes a counselor, a nurse, a parent, a mind-reader, and a therapist. I love every minute of it! I love the unpredictability that each day brings, and the fact that no two days are ever alike. Deep down, I always knew I would become a teacher. I was the kid who had school for her stuffed animals and eagerly asked for extra homework as a kindergartener. My mother loves to embarrass me by sharing my childhood stories of how I would only agree to clean my room if she would make me math worksheets as a reward. Bribery with math worksheets? I was destined to become a math teacher.

There are many aspects of teaching that I love. Obviously, I love the curriculum, being a self-proclaimed math geek. In addition, I love the sarcasm and humor that go along with teaching middle school students. So many days I laugh out loud at my job; how many people are lucky enough to say that? One of my favorite tasks as an educator, however, is that of trying to instill a genuine love of learning in my students. I want them to love math so much that they beg for worksheets as a reward when they clean their room. I want them to understand that learning is not just something that is done in the classroom and is finished when you graduate; rather, it is a way to approach life.

When I was in graduate school, I would share stories with my students about staying up late to work on a paper, struggling on a difficult assignment, or doing my dance of joy when I got a good grade on a test. I want them to see that learning is something you will always be doing. When I completed my degree, my students were so excited for me. They assumed I would be done with school, and were quite surprised when a few weeks later I announced that I would be teaching part-time at the university, and I was getting ready for a whole new set of challenges. I told them the lesson here is that the learning never stops. Sometimes it takes on new forms and pushes us in new directions, but learning is a continuous process. If I can get my students to embrace that concept, or possibly to want to clean their room for math worksheets, then I feel it would be my greatest accomplishment.

# REGION 5

## *Piedmont-Triad/Central*



**Molly Ellington**  
*Alamance-Burlington Schools*



**Keri Lamb**  
*Asheboro City Schools*



**Emily Smith**  
*Caswell County Schools*



**Patricia Berge**  
*Chapel Hill-Carrboro  
City Schools*



**Neal Morgan**  
*Chatham County Schools*



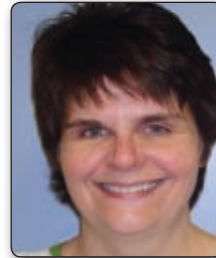
**Laura Clodfelter**  
*Davidson County Schools*



**Melonie Rector**  
*Lexington City Schools*



**Christopher Hansen**  
*Orange County Schools*



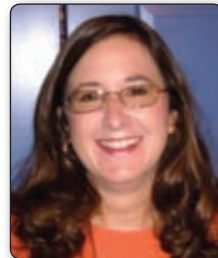
**Allison Bowers**  
*Person County Schools*



**Addie Snotherly**  
*Randolph County Schools*



**Chrystal Thomas**  
*Rockingham County Schools*



**Jennifer Via**  
*Stokes County Schools*



**Jewell Beasley**  
*Thomasville City Schools*



**Iris Mudd**  
*Winston Salem/Forsyth  
County Schools*

*"Keeping our classrooms full of rigorous and relevant curriculum is the only way we will prepare our students for the challenges they face and the only way that we can change the public perception of the effectiveness of public education."*

– JENNIFER ARBERG



# LENORA CRABTREE

SOUTHWEST REGION

*Gaston County Schools*

## ASSIGNMENT

**Grades 10-12, AP Biology, Honors  
Anatomy and Physiology, Honors  
Research Methods**

**Forestview High School  
Gastonia, NC**

## EXPERIENCE

15 Years; 8 years in current position  
Gaston County Schools, Forestview High  
School, 2004-Present, Biology (all levels),  
Chemistry and Honors Chemistry  
Gaston Christian School, 1997-2004  
Biology (all levels), Chemistry and Honors  
Chemistry, Physical Science

## EDUCATION

Lateral Entry Coursework Completed,  
Teaching License Received, 2007  
Vanderbilt Medical School, 1986-1987  
Vanderbilt University, Bachelor of Science,  
Molecular Biology, Graduated magna cum  
laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1981-1985

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2012 Southwest Region Teacher of the Year  
2011 Gaston County Teacher of the Year  
2011 Gaston County Jaycees "Distinguished  
Educator of the Year"  
2011 National Association of Biology Teachers  
"Kim Foglia Distinguished Service" Award,  
Nominee  
2010-2011 Forestview High School Teacher of  
the Year  
2009 Time Warner Cable "Star Teacher"  
Award  
2006 Education Foundation Grant Winner,  
"Honey I Shrank the Classroom"

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Biology Teachers  
National Science Teacher Association  
Common Core Standards – Gaston County  
Science Teachers Leadership Team

We call them "nerd moments," and while my students complain about them, I know they secretly love them. "I can't go outside without seeing carbon dioxide molecules entering leaves!" "When I see flowers, I don't stop and smell them, I look at the parts!" "When I eat a meal, I mentally digest every molecule." These humorous statements are some of my greatest rewards as a teacher. They are evidence that I am making a difference!

The earliest memory that I have of wanting to be a teacher occurred in an unlikely place. I was a student at Vanderbilt Medical School absorbed in a lecture about being an effective physician. "Increasing patient compliance is the most important thing you can do to improve the health of your patients. If the patient does not understand and follow your recommendations, it is as if they never met you." The professor's words struck a deep chord as I realized the most important task of a medical provider is to teach patients to do what is best for their personal health in such a way that encourages change. In that moment, I resolved to be a physician who is an effective teacher of her patients. Life, however, took a different turn. Following the birth of three sons, I chose to become a classroom teacher. Each day I seek to educate my students and equip them to make decisions which result in the most positive outcome for their lives.

True learning happens when students have an opportunity to actively explore difficult concepts. My students and I build models of molecules and cells to understand life at the "molecular" level. After constructing a larger than life model of the digestive tract, we act out the process of digestion, "consuming" chains of students that represent food molecules. Through journaling, future scientists explore the challenges faced by parents of children with genetic disorders. While working in collaborative groups, my future educators practice their own gift of teaching as they strive to master challenging curriculum with a team of peers. I love to connect with students outside of the classroom by participating in the activities they enjoy. My presence at the cross country finish line, on the basketball sidelines, or at musical performances demonstrates to my students that I value what they value, and as a result, positive things happen in the classroom.

While the "nerd moments" my students complain about are humorous, I am aware that they underlie a powerful phenomenon. Knowing that trees take in carbon dioxide affects how you think about deforestation and climate change. Understanding that you truly are what you eat enables you to make healthy decisions and good food choices. The lessons my students and I learn together can impact lifestyle choices, career paths, and the decisions of future policy makers and leaders. Effective teaching transforms lives and improves our community. I am grateful to be growing into the teacher I hoped to become as a medical student twenty-five years ago.



# REGION 6

## Southwest



**Kevin Adams**  
*Anson County Schools*



**Janelle Patterson**  
*Cabarrus County Schools*



**Karen Meadows**  
*Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
Schools*



**Jennifer Bumgardner**  
*Cleveland County Schools*



**Krista Chapman**  
*Kannapolis City Schools*



**Regina Hovis**  
*Lincoln County Schools*



**Ellen Blue**  
*Stanly County Schools*



**Maya Schultz**  
*Union County Schools*

*“Technology, field trips, projects and presentations can enhance the learner’s experience. True teaching, however, occurs when learning happens. It involves helping students develop new understanding that alters the way they view the world and results in change.”*

**– LENORA CRABTREE**



# DARCY GRIMES

NORTHWEST REGION

*Watauga County Schools*

## ASSIGNMENT

Grade 3 Teacher  
Bethel Elementary School  
Sugar Grove, NC

## EXPERIENCE

5 years, 2 years in current position  
Watauga County Schools, Bethel Elementary  
2009-Present  
Wilkes County Schools, Moravian Falls  
Elementary 2006-2009

## EDUCATION

Appalachian State University  
Currently enrolled in the Instructional  
Technology MA program, projected  
graduation date May 2013  
Add on licensure Middle Grades 6-9 Language  
Arts/Social Studies 2009  
BS in Elementary Education, 2002-2006

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Northwest NC Regional Teacher of the Year  
2011-2012  
Watauga County Schools Teacher of the Year  
2011-2012  
Bethel Elementary School Teacher of the Year  
2011-2012  
Watauga Education Foundation Grant  
Recipient 2009-2011  
NC Fruits and Vegetables Grant School  
Recipient 2011  
Intel Master Teacher 2009

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Reading Association  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

"Is teaching hard?" Lily, one of my third grade students, asked me last week. "Well," I said,

"For me teaching is exciting! I look forward to coming to school every day to build relationships with our class. I love learning with you and making each day exciting and fun. Yes, teaching can take up a lot of time creating a learner centered classroom, but all of the time I spend is worth it when I see the excitement for learning on your faces. To me teaching doesn't feel hard. I love what I do every day and it doesn't feel like work."

Lily then looked at me and said, "When I become a teacher, I hope I'm like you, and it doesn't feel hard for me either."

My philosophy of teaching is similar to my answer to Lily's question. In order to be an outstanding teacher, I have to show my enthusiasm for learning to my students through humor, song, dance, and games. I must create relationships and personal connections with each child in my classroom. I feel it is a necessity to set high standards for all of my students, no matter their background and past experiences, so they will be working at their highest potential. But most of all, I want all of my students to be life-long learners and global citizens who can compete in this growing technological society.

My teaching style is energetic, structured, motivating, and creative. Like most teachers, I use assessments to see how my students are achieving, but the way I teach the material is unique. I feel that teaching today is not only about getting the students ready for a test, but instead preparing them for their future. In order to accomplish this goal, I have given my students many opportunities to work in collaborative groups on project-based assignments. My students have used Web 2.0 tools to work collaboratively with classrooms in five different states and abroad in four different countries. These technological opportunities allow my students who live in a very rural area to have experiences working with other students around the world.

The rewards I receive from being a teacher are incredible. Many are attained in the classroom. Seeing my students squirm excitedly in their seats as they use Skype to complete a project with another class from across the world, the smiles on their faces when they use the response "clickers" to review concepts, and the joy in their hearts which jumps off the paper from their stories are all incredible. Still, other rewards are found outside of the classroom. The waves I receive from the playing field or the sidelines at a basketball game, the smiles I am flashed from the stage at a dance recital, and the hugs I am greeted with at the finish line after my students have just finished their first 5k are simply amazing. I could not imagine giving up all of these rewards or working in another profession. I love learning. I love inspiring. I love teaching.

# REGION 7

## Northwest



**Amy Hall**  
*Alexander County Schools*



**Tammy Marion**  
*Alleghany County Schools*



**Sarah Tugman**  
*Ashe County Schools*



**Michelle Burnop**  
*Avery County Schools*



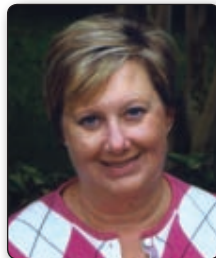
**Sarena Fuller**  
*Burke County Schools*



**Ann Matthews**  
*Caldwell County Schools*



**Lorie Fox**  
*Catawba County Schools*



**Rebecca Marion**  
*Davie County Schools*



**Tonya Smith**  
*Elkin City Schools*



**Rachael Moyer**  
*Hickory Public Schools*



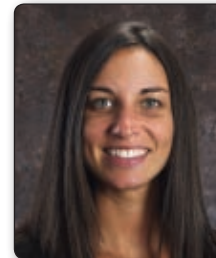
**Dwayne Troutman**  
*Iredell-Statesville Schools*



**Cheryl Dortch**  
*Mooreville Graded  
School District*



**Olivia Byerly**  
*Mount Airy City Schools*



**Margaret Daniels**  
*Newton-Conover City Schools*



**Theresa Pierce**  
*Rowan-Salisbury Schools*



**Jonathan Amos**  
*Surry County Schools*



**Reuellyn Thomas**  
*Wilkes County Schools*



**Cynthia Stone**  
*Yadkin County Schools*

*"To keep our students competitive in the 21st century global economy, teachers and parents must demand that students use strategic thinking on everyday problems because standardized thinking and standardized problems can be solved anywhere in the world."*

**– DARCY GRIMES**



# EDITH CALLAHAN

WESTERN REGION

*Jackson County Schools*

## ASSIGNMENT

Grades 9-12, Career Technical Education (CTE), Health Occupations

Smoky Mountain High  
Sylva, NC

## EXPERIENCE

5 years; 5 years in current position  
Health Occupations Educator Grades 9th-12th

## EDUCATION

North Carolina State University, Lateral Entry Teaching Certificate, 2009

University of Maryland Medical School, Master in Physical Therapy, 2004

Towson State University, Bachelors of Science in Sports Medicine, 1996

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2011 North Carolina New Teacher of the Year for Career and Technical Education

2011 District 8 New Teacher of the Year for Career and Technical Education

2011-2012 Western Region Teacher of the Year

2011-2012 Jackson County Teacher of the Year

2011-2012 Smoky Mountain High Teacher of the Year

2010, 2011, 2012 Gold Star Advisor for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

2010, 2011, 2012 Gold Star Chapter for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

2012 Feature of the Week on WLOS and Channel 13 News: Never Stop Learning

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)  
NC District 8 HOSA Board Representative (NC HOSA Board)

Member, North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education (NCACTE)

Member, North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE)

Member, National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA)

My commitment to my students and the community is guided by my favorite quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world," from Gandhi. Change can be brought about through education and service, and has the greatest positive outcome when performed with passion and dedication. I have been fortunate enough to be employed at Smoky Mountain High School (SMHS) for five years as a Health Occupations Educator. In my five years, I have taught Advanced Studies in Health Occupation, Medical Sciences I, Health Sciences II, Allied Health Sciences I, Biomedical Technology, and Health Team Relations. As a clinical coordinator and partner with MedWest Harris Health System and other community health care professionals, I have tried to provide relevant clinical experiences for my students.

At SMHS, I oversee the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) program and my students have had the wonderful opportunity to compete at the regional, state, and national level for six consecutive years. They also have raised thousands of dollars in support of The Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and Autism Speaks.

At HOSA's State Leadership Conference in March, 2012, SMHS placed in the top ten in Biomedical Debate and Nursing Assisting. Additionally, in March 2011, SMHS placed in the top ten in the following categories: Emergency Technician, Biomedical Debate, Physical Therapy, and Forensic Science. SMHS HOSA received an award for Outstanding HOSA Chapter and recognition for participation in three or more American Red Cross blood drives per year.

With guidance from the school and community, my students have achieved success on many fronts. For the past two years, they have participated in the Asheville Citizen-Times essay contest on ethical issues. In March, 2011, they placed first and were recognized at a luncheon sponsored by Junior Achievement. In 2009, my Medical Science I class received the highest Vocational Competency Achievement Tracking System (VoCATS) exam scores in the state's Western Region.

I believe these program successes are a result of three important factors: consistency, preparation, and motivation. Consistency provides a positive and safe learning environment where students can grow through failures, as well as successes. Preparation allows students to understand the importance of being able to think critically and creatively with confidence in a variety of situations. Motivation encourages students to take advantage of opportunities for relevant experiences such as competitions, clinical rotations, and community service, all of which are important to building good leadership and communication skills.

I encourage all students to get involved in their community because the community provides an exciting and relevant support to education. Positive, sustainable change comes from within. Therefore, I encourage my students to be proud of their accomplishments, but to also learn from their failures. I also implore them to not only let their community support their education, but to also let their education inspire their community. To that end, my students and my community are my inspiration as an educator and citizen of western North Carolina. To them I say, "Thank you!"

# REGION 8 Western



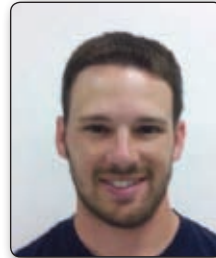
**Victoria Angelotti**  
*Asheville City Schools*



**Chris Brown**  
*Buncombe County Schools*



**Elizabeth Gilbert**  
*Cherokee County Schools*



**Zachary Moss**  
*Clay County Schools*



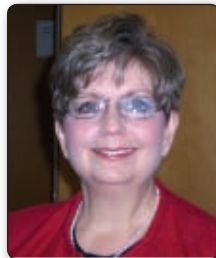
**Kevin White**  
*Graham County Schools*



**Stephen Parris**  
*Haywood County Schools*



**Joe Shook**  
*Henderson County Schools*



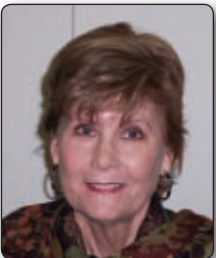
**Vickie Sutton**  
*Macon County Schools*



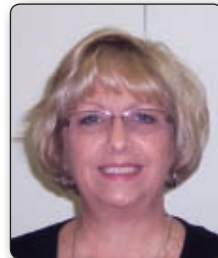
**Tina Thorpe**  
*Madison County Schools*



**Gregory Franklin**  
*Mitchell County Schools*



**Susan McRostie**  
*Polk County Schools*



**Robyn Elliott**  
*Rutherford County Schools*



**Dora May**  
*Swain County Schools*



**Amanda O'Shields**  
*Transylvania County Schools*



**Jodi Antinori**  
*Yancey County Schools*

*"I teach as I was taught—with passion for positive change, with a dedication to provide laughter and patience in every situation, and allow students to grow into delightful, respectful, citizens of our local as well as global community."*

— EDITH CALLAHAN



# JENNIFER CLAYTON

CHARTER SCHOOLS

*Forsyth Academy*

## ASSIGNMENT

Grade 3 Teacher  
Forsyth Academy  
Winston-Salem, NC

## EXPERIENCE

2007-Present, Grade 3 Teacher, Forsyth Academy – National Heritage Academies, Winston-Salem, NC

2003-2007 Grade 2 Teacher, Cross Creek Charter Academy – National Heritage Academies, Byron Center, MI

## EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Post Masters Certification in School Administration, Fall 2010-Present

Western Michigan University, Masters Degree in Elementary Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, Winter 2003-June 2007

Grand Valley State University, Bachelor of Science with Group Social Studies and Elementary Education Certification, State of Michigan Education Certification in K-8 and Social Studies, Winter 1999-December 2002

## RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2010-2011 Forsyth Academy Teacher of the Year

2012-2013 North Carolina Charter School Teacher of the Year

The experience an individual has in the classroom many times will shape one's opinion and attitude about education. My educational experiences were filled with average teachers who expected average results from students. Classroom instruction was delivered in one way—worksheets were given and assessments measured. Average was acceptable. This educational community recognized only those that met the average set of standards or excelled athletically. However, I was not average and did not want to be average. Therefore, I did not fit the traditional expectations of mediocrity.

As an elementary and middle school student, I did not find meaning in the instructional content presented to me. The days were long and recess was something I looked forward to each day. As I progressed through school, my experiences in the classroom mirrored one another. The only thing that changed was the teacher who was put before me.

I felt a yearning to make a difference in the educational system as I knew there was something else and more that could be done. I wanted to make sure that kids had an above average educational experience. I wanted to make learning come alive. More importantly, I wanted to make sure that the rich experiences, both academically and non-academically, which my family and friends provided me were also available to other students.

It has been my mission since to provide a quality education to all students who enter my classroom. I believe a quality education has the ability to enhance an individual's knowledge and character. It opens doors by creating opportunities and experiences that may not have otherwise been available to an individual. Quality classrooms are not created by chance. Instead, quality classrooms happen when an educator has a set of core beliefs and values about the students they are serving. It involves more than just having a curriculum to teach or goals to reach. Ultimately, it is a set of beliefs that can be articulated and carried out on a daily basis.

The classroom in which I teach has been designed to be an inviting place for students to learn academic and social skills. I have created a structured environment where all students know what is expected of them. Working together with support staff, parents, and the community, I strive to motivate students in a variety of ways to ensure that all students are engaged and learning effectively.

It is critical that each child is challenged and continually growing. As students learn and grow, they will be able to reap the rewards as they open doors to places they have never been. Seeing students begin to take ownership of their learning journey in and out of the classroom can also be a fulfilling part of being an educator. Outstanding teachers truly help create the learning pallet that allows a student to make a masterpiece which will always be changing throughout his/her lifetime.

# CHARTER SCHOOLS



**Hollis Brown**  
*ArtSpace Charter School*



**Stacey Marjoram**  
*Charter Day School*



**Kay D. Lopossay**  
*Chatham Charter*



**Shavonda Scales-Voorluis**  
*East Wake Academy*



**Marni Frugé**  
*Evergreen Community Charter*



**Charita M. Justice**  
*Lake Norman Charter*



**Megan Wright**  
*Roxboro Community School*



**Larry Frederick**  
*Socrates Academy*



**Winnie Lameck**  
*Southern Wake Academy*



**Caroline M. Brown**  
*Union Academy*



**Clay Wooldridge**  
*Voyager Academy*

*"A set of strong core beliefs make the difference between an average teacher and an outstanding teacher. As an educator, I believe that all students can and will achieve their greatest potential when a teacher is outstanding."*

– JENNIFER CLAYTON

# NC TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 1970-2011

- 
- 2011 TYRONNA HOOKER**, Alamance-Burlington Schools, EC Inclusion, grades 6-8
- 
- 2010 JENNIFER J. FACCIOLINI**, Sampson County Schools, Social Studies, high school
- 
- 2009 JESSICA GARNER**, Union County Public Schools, Spanish, high school
- 
- 2008 CINDI RIGSBEE**, Orange County Schools, Reading, middle school, **"NATIONAL FINALIST"**
- 
- 2007 JAMES BELL**, Edenton-Chowan Public Schools, Language Arts, 8th grade
- 
- 2006 DIANA BEASLEY**, Hickory City Schools, Biology, high school
- 
- 2005 WENDY MILLER**, Craven County Schools, grades K-2
- 
- 2004 LIZBETH ALFARO**, Catawba County Schools, ESL, grades K-6
- 
- 2003 ALLISON ORMOND**, Rockingham County Schools, Language Arts/Social Studies, 7th grade
- 
- 2002 MELISSA BARTLETT**, Iredell-Statesville Schools, English, high school, **"NATIONAL FINALIST"**
- 
- 2001 CARMEN WILSON**, Ashe County Schools, Mathematics, high school
- 
- 2000 LAURA BILBRO-BERRY**, Beaufort County Schools, 2nd grade
- 
- 1999 KIMBERLY H. HUGHES**, Wake County Schools, Kindergarten
- 
- 1998 REBECCA O. HOYLE**, Onslow County Schools, Music, grades K-5
- 
- 1997 JULIAN L. COGGINS, JR.**, Cabarrus County Schools, Science, high school
- 
- 1996 RICHARD SCOTT GRIFFIN**, Gaston County Schools, 5th grade
- 
- 1995 VERNESTINE KENT TAYLOR**, Wilson County Schools, Mathematics, high school
- 
- 1994 SANDRA C. WELLS**, Asheville City Schools, (Buncombe Co.), Team Teacher, 1st & 4th grades
- 
- 1993 SARAH M. PRATT**, McDowell County Schools, English/Social Studies, high school, **"NATIONAL HALL OF FAME WINNER"**
- 
- 1992 DIXIE F. ABERNATHY**, Gaston County Schools, Science, junior high school
- 
- 1991 ANNIE PEGRAM**, Durham City Schools, (Durham Co.), 1st grade
- 
- 1990 LOUIS GOTLIEB**, Granville County Schools, Science, high school
- 
- 1989 SANDRA DAVIS ROGERS**, Rowan County Schools, 1st-3rd grades
- 
- 1988 MERV SESSOMS**, Haywood County Schools, English, high school
- 
- 1987 CYNTHIA B. ZEGER-OSTHERHUS**, Salisbury City Schools, (Rowan Co.), Mathematics, high school
- 
- 1986 DONNA H. OLIVER**, Burlington City Schools, (Alamance Co.), Science, high school, **"NATIONAL WINNER"**
- 
- 1985 PAMELA F. BREWER**, Person County Schools, English/Journalism, high school
- 
- 1984 PHILLIP R. DAIL**, Wake County Schools, Science, high school
- 
- 1983 JEAN PAUL POWELL**, Clinton City Schools, (Sampson Co.), English, 12th grade
- 
- 1982 JAMES JEROME WILLIAMS**, Burke County Schools, Music, high school
- 
- 1981 PENELOPE SUE SMITH**, Asheboro City Schools, (Randolph Co.), Humanities, high school
- 
- 1980 LINDA LEE**, Burlington City Schools, (Alamance Co.), English, high school
- 
- 1979 JO ANN PAYNE NORRIS**, Wake County Schools, 1st grade
- 
- 1978 RUTH P. WATKINS**, Richmond County Schools, Social Studies, high school
- 
- 1977 TED SCOTT HENSON**, Vance County Schools, Language Arts/Social Studies, 5th grade
- 
- 1976 RUBY MURCHISON**, Fayetteville City Schools, (Cumberland Co.), Language Arts/Social Studies, 7th grade, **"NATIONAL WINNER"**
- 
- 1975 HERMAN L. FORBES**, High Point City Schools, (Guilford Co.), 6th grade
- 
- 1974 FRANCES A. KISER**, Cleveland County Schools, English, high school
- 
- 1973 SARAH E. SPIVEY**, Raleigh City Schools, (Wake Co.), 4th-5th grade, **"NATIONAL FINALIST"**
- 
- 1972 JAMES M. "JAY" ROGERS**, Durham City Schools, (Durham Co.), American History/Black Studies, high school, **"NATIONAL WINNER"**
- 
- 1971 GENELLA ALLISON**, Hickory City Schools, (Catawba Co.), English/Journalism, high school
- 
- 1970 JOHN MCFADDEN**, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, 6th grade, **"NATIONAL FINALIST"**
-