



When you shape minds, you shape the future



The work you're doing today will make a difference for years to come - to your students, and to the world they live in.

Wells Fargo is proud to acknowledge the 2020 North Carolina Principal of the Year.

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PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR SPONSORS

WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company that has 266 stores and more than 36,500 team members in North Carolina. Wells Fargo's vision is to satisfy all of its customers' financial needs and to help them succeed financially through its banking, commercial real estate lending, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance products and services.

Wells Fargo is honored to sponsor the North Carolina Principal of the Year Program and to support educational initiatives in communities across the state. This past year in North Carolina, Wells Fargo provided more than \$24.6 million to nonprofits and schools. These contributions were channeled into areas such as neighborhood revitalization, education, mortgage counseling, small business development, human services and financial literacy. Team members volunteered more than 230,550 hours. Visit a Wells Fargo branch today or wellsfargo.com to learn more about the company.

Wells Fargo and you — together we'll go far.



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. To that end, EF is pleased to award the 2020 Principal of the Year a trip to the Global Education Symposium in Boston in 2021 for the POY and a guest or two teachers of his/her choosing. This event is hosted at the North American headquarters in Boston, MA where likeminded educators will gather to explore topics like STEM, sustainability and others through a global lens and will feature educators from around the world as well as EF partners contributing to the field. The prize includes flights, accommodations, meals, conference registration, and a chance to experience Boston.



The Hampton Inn & Suites Chapel Hill-Carrboro/ Downtown is a proud sponsor of the Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year program. The hotel is set in the heart of Chapel Hill/Carrboro within walking distance to the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and dining and leisure options in downtown Chapel Hill. This Chapel Hill/Carrboro hotel provides flexible meeting spaces, conference facilities, and banquet services for up to 200 people.



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.



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.

AWARD CEREMONY

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

DR. SONJA BROWN • Recognition & Advancement Lead, District & Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

DR. CYNTHIA MARTIN • Director, District & Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction ALAN DUNCAN • Vice Chairman, State Board of Education

VIDEO MESSAGES

ROY COOPER • Governor of North Carolina DAN FOREST • Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

CAROLYN MITCHELL • Principal, Pittman Elementary, Halifax County Schools Tribute to Mr. Teicher Patterson, District Principal of the Year, Enfield Middle, Halifax County Schools

LUNCHEON

SPONSORS REMARKS

JOHN W. WARD • Region Head, Carolinas Division Middle Market Banking, Wells Fargo ALESSANDRO MONTANARI • Assistant Director, District & Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

EDUCATION FIRST (EF)

NO KID HUNGRY NC

HAMPTON INN

JOSTENS

REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP

MATTHEW BRISTOW-SMITH • 2019 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year MARK JOHNSON • State Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction DR. BEVERLY EMORY • Deputy State Superintendent of District Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

VIDEO PRESENTATION OF 2020 REGIONAL FINALISTS

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL CANDIDATES

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2020 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL L. GOLDEN • Executive Vice President, Triangle Region Bank President, Wells Fargo

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT DR. SONJA BROWN

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 40 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principals of the Year, 264 regional award recipients, and 3,364 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. Eight regional finalists participate in the state selection process. 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 2020 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 District & Regional Support Division at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.



2020 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.

PATRICIA FOUST

Retired Assistant Superintendent Randolph County Schools

DR. REBECCA GARLAND

Retired Deputy State Superintendent North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

THE HONORABLE HOWARD N. LEE

Founder and President Howard N. Lee Institute

DR. JEFF COX

President Wilkes Community College

DR. SONJA BROWN

Recognition & Advancement Lead District & Regional Support North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

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SHEILA P. EVANS



NORTHEAST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

White Oak Elementary | Edenton Chowan Schools

"I model excellence through my work ethic and pursuit of continuous improvement."

- 20 Years of administrative experience
- East Carolina University (Supervision Certificate, Administration Certificate)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA, MA)
- Participant in Distinguished Leaders Program
- National Board Certification
- Principal of the Year Edenton-Chowan Schools 2005, 2011, 2013
- MTSS Green Ribbon School
- According to 2020 NCTWC survey, 100% of staff feels the school leadership consistently supports teachers

NORTHEAST DISTRICT WINNERS \equiv

Chena Cayton Ayden-Grifton High Pitt County Schools

Monica Edmonds Northampton County Early College High Northampton County Schools

Adrian L. Fonville River Road Middle Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

Nancy Purvis Greene Williamston Primary Martin County Schools

Beth Rooks Cape Hatteras Secondary School of Coastal Studies Dare County Schools

Terrell Jones

Belmont Elementary Roanoke Rapids County Schools

Keith Mitchell John Cotten Tayloe Elementary Beaufort County Schools

LeVar Mizelle

Camden Middle Camden County Schools

Laura Moreland Perquimans County Middle Perquimans County Schools

Greta Nelson Shawboro Elementary Currituck County Schools **Teicher L. Patterson** Enfield Middle S.T.E.A.M. Academy Halifax County Schools

Julie Lipsitz Shields Bearfield Primary Hertford County Public Schools

Dianne Stokes Washington County Middle Washington County Schools

Dr. Shawn Wilson Gatesville Elementary Gates County Schools

William Ziegler Columbia High Tyrrell County Schools

DEBORAH S. HOFFMAN



SOUTHEAST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Jacksonville Commons Elementary | Onslow County Schools

"I operate from the platform of "everybody knows what everybody knows". As such, I ensure staff are a part of decision making and are well-informed of how/why decisions are made."

- 9 Years of administrative experience
- East Carolina University (EdS, MSA)
- Campbell University (MBA)
- Albany State University (BS)
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington National Board Support Provider
- WE are LEADing Award nominee (2019)
- National Board Certification
- According to 2020 NCTWC Survey, 100% of teachers are encouraged to participate in school leadership roles

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT WINNERS =

Claudia E. Casey Tucker Creek Middle Craven County Schools

Stacy Cauley Moss Hill Elementary Lenoir County Public Schools

Yuvonka Batts Davis Greene County Pre-K Center Greene County Schools

Stella Miller Downs Comfort Elementary Jones County Public Schools Avery P. Ellington Malpass Corner Elementary Pender County Schools

Lori D. Goodman Spring Creek Elementary Wayne County Public Schools

Michael K. Hodges South Brunswick High Brunswick County Schools Glen Locklear J.C. Roe Center New Hanover County Schools

Jody Nelson McClenny Newport Elementary Carteret County Schools

Selina Riley-Gurganus

Duplin Early College High Duplin County Schools

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DR. RUTH C. STEIDINGER



NORTH CENTRAL REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Olive Chapel Elementary | Wake County Public Schools

"We need to create a culture where students feel safe to learn from failures, where they take command of their learning, and create lessons that honor their approach to learning."

- 24 Years of administrative experience
- East Carolina University (Ed.D)
- NC Central (M.Ed)
- Meredith College (BS)
- Presented at North Carolina Educational Leadership Academy Summer Conference 2019 Learning to Lead with Purpose
- Principal of the Year Finalist Wake County Public Schools 2018
- East Carolina University Mack & Margaret Coble Doctoral Fellowship
- According to 2020 NCTWC Survey, 100% of new teachers feel the support received has been an important factor in continuing teaching at this school

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT WINNERS

Sheila Atkins Wilton Elementary Granville County Public Schools

Robert Bales McDougle Middle Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Stefanie Clarke BT Bullock Elementary Lee County Schools

Tripp Crayton Jordan-Matthews High Chatham County Schools

Minnie Goins Efland-Cheeks Global Elementary Orange County Schools **Rey Horner**

Vance County High Vance County Schools

Dr. Lauren A. Lampron W. A. Pattillo Middle Edgecombe County Public Schools

Erica Shoulders-Royster

Franklin County Early College Franklin County Schools

Marquis Spell Springfield Middle Wilson County Schools Lora Street Benhaven Elementary Harnett County Schools

Dr. L. Jackie Tobias City of Medicine Academy Durham Public Schools

Joseph Warren Woodland Elementary Person County Schools

Leigh White Riverwood Elementary Johnston County Public Schools

ALFRED JEAN HAMMOND



SANDHILLS REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Upchurch Elementary | Hoke County Schools

"I firmly believe that students are not defined by their zip code. All students can learn if we create meaningful learning opportunities."

- 9 Years of administrative experience
- Fayetteville State University (MSA)
- Francis Marion University (BS)
- Assistant Principal of the Year Hoke County Schools 2015
- Presented at SREB 2016 Incorporation of Computer Science & Coding
- North Carolina Schools Purple Star Award
- Increased School Performance Growth by 23 points over 4 years
- According to 2020 NCTWC survey, 100% of staff feels school leadership holds teachers to high professional standards for delivering instruction

SANDHILLS DISTRICT WINNERS =

Karen S. Allen Hamlet Middle Richmond County Schools

Laura Bailey Laurel Hill Elementary Scotland County Schools

D. JaMese Morris Black East Montgomery High

Montgomery County Schools

Vanessa Brown Sunset Ave Elementary Clinton City Schools **Dr. Christina DiGaudio** Ireland Drive Middle Cumberland County Schools

Kevin Hunter Midway Middle Sampson County Schools

Shaun Krencicki West End Elementary Moore County Schools Stephanie Jones Norris Clarkton School of Discovery Bladen County Schools

Ronald Prater Fairmont High Public Schools of Robeson County

Georgia Etta Spaulding

Evergreen Elementary Columbus County Schools

ASHLEY CRAVEN LEMLEY



PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Southwood Elementary | Davidson County Schools

"Relationships are the first piece of making any school successful. Our goal is for these relationships to be long term and life changing for the students."

- 13 Years of administrative experience
- Gardner-Webb University (MSA)
- University of North Carolina at Wilmington (BA)
- National Board Certification
- Southwood Elementary Signature School Recognition (2017)
- Led the school to develop the Southwood Community Outreach Project
- Led the implementation of the first Spanish Immersion Program in Davidson County Schools
- According to 2020 NCTWC survey, 100% of staff feels the school leadership consistently supports teachers

PIEDMONT-TRIAD DISTRICT WINNERS

Tammie Abernethy

Ramseur Elementary Randolph County School System

Amanda H. Burton

Elkin Middle Elkin City Schools

Ron Dixon

South Asheboro Middle Asheboro City Schools

Josh Eanes

Bethany Elementary Rockingham County Schools

Debra R Gladstone

Mineral Springs Elementary/Mineral Springs Middle Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Nicole Hazelwood White Plains Elementary Surry County Schools

Rhonda T. Jackson Southeastern Stokes Middle Stokes County Schools

Robert "Boomer" Kennedy Forbush High Yadkin County Schools

William Luciano

Jones Elementary Guilford County Schools

Carla Murray North Elementary Caswell County Schools

Olivia Sikes

Mount Airy Middle Mount Airy City Schools

Cindy Stone Cooleemee Elementary Davie County Schools

DR. JENNIFER BRINSON



SOUTHWEST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Wolf Meadow Elementary | Cabarrus County Schools

"I know when people feel valued and heard, not only are trust and respect fostered, vital energy within my organization is generated."

- 6 Years of administrative experience
- Western Carolina University (Ed.D)
- Western Governors University (MS)
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte (BS)
- National Board Certification
- Cabarrus County Schools National Board Teacher Advocate and Trainer
- Presented at Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate 2019 To Inspire and Cultivate Revolutionary Practice
- According to 2020 NCTWC survey, 100% of staff feels school leadership holds teachers to high professional standards for delivery instruction

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT WINNERS =

Brian Clary West Lincoln High Lincoln County Schools

Laura Calhoun Dixon W.A. Bess Elementary Gaston County Schools

Shonda Hairston Knollwood Elementary Rowan-Salisbury School System

Deana Lewis Jackson Park Elementary Kannapolis City Schools Andy Mehall Cloverleaf Elementary Iredell-Statesville Schools

Dr. Emily Miles Sterling Elementary Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

Ayana Robinson Mooresville Middle Mooresville Graded School District

Emily Shaw Albemarle High Stanly County Schools Travis Steagall

Peachland-Polkton Elementary Anson County Schools

Dr. Sharyn G. VonCannon Unionville Elementary Union County Public Schools

Jacob Wilson Union Elementary Cleveland County Schools

KISHA CLEMONS



NORTHWEST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Shuford Elementary | Newton-Conover City Schools

"I seek opportunities for individuals to lead in their areas of strength, and cultivate an environment where individuals are excited to lead."

- 10 Years of administrative experience
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Doctoral Candidate)
- Appalachian State University (BS, MSA)
- National Title I Distinguished Schools
- Participant in Distinguished Leaders Program
- North Carolina Principal Fellow
- Led school to have highest proficiency in Reading and Science in the school's history
- According to 2020 NCTWC survey, 100% of staff feels the school leadership facilitates using data to improve student learning

NORTHWEST DISTRICT WINNERS =

Dr. Monet Samuelson Newland Elementary Avery County Schools

Andrea Allen Blue Ridge Elementary Yancey County Schools

Brandon Birchfield Deyton Elementary Mitchell County Schools

Chris Blanton Watauga High Watauga County Schools Scott Carter Alleghany High Alleghany County Schools

Charmion S. Frizsell Bethlehem Elementary Alexander County Schools

Travis Gillespie West Lenoir Elementary Caldwell County Schools

Jeff Hodakowski Viewmont Elementary Hickory Public Schools Nichole Ijames Mill Creek Middle Catawba County Schools

Sara LeCroy Robert L. Patton High Burke County Public Schools

Edwin H. Spivey III McDowell High McDowell County Schools

LORI FOX



WESTERN REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Haywood Early College | Haywood County Schools

"I feel I have provided staff with a level of support and autonomy that is without equal and trust them to take chances, and we feel that is one of the key drivers of our high levels of student achievement."

- 8 Years of administrative experience
- Western Carolina University (BS, MSA)
- Apple Certified Teacher (2018)
- Led school in 1:1 initiative with Apple Products
- Representative for Haywood County Schools Policy and School Calendar Committees (2018)
- President Elect Haywood County Principal & Assistant Principal Association (2020-2021)
- National Blue Ribbon Exemplary Performance Award 2018
- According to 2020 NCTWC survey, 100% of staff feels there is an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect in the school

WESTERN DISTRICT WINNERS

Tammie Ash Forrest W. Hunt Elementary Rutherford County Schools

Sonya Blankenship Swain County High Swain County Schools

Diane Cotton Union Academy Macon County Schools

Kristin Dillon

Brush Creek Elementary Madison County Schools Lauren Evans Asheville Primary Asheville City Schools

Tracie Metz

Blue Ridge Early College Jackson County Public Schools

Carrie Norris Brevard Elementary Transylvania County Schools **Tonya Robinson**

Enka High Buncombe County Schools

John Shepard North Henderson High Henderson County Public Schools

Paul Wilson

Martins Creek Cherokee County Schools

2019 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR



Matthew Bristow-Smith

2019 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL of the YEAR

> NORTH CENTRAL REGION EDGECOMBE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MELISSA FIELDS Northeast Region Perquimans County Schools



SEAN GAILLARD Piedmont-Triad Region Lexington City Schools



ELIZABETH P. PIERCE Southeast Region Lenoir County Public Schools



DR. TIMISHA BARNES-JONES Southwest Region Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



BRANDON SUTTON Western Region Swain County Schools



JAMES "BO" MULLINS Sandhills Region Sampson County Schools



MICHELLE BAKER Northwest Region McDowell County Schools

PAST NC PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

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

2018 Tabari Wallace, Craven County Schools, West Craven High

2017 Jason Griffin, Perquimans County Schools, Hertford Grammar

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

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

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

2013 Dale Cole, Beaufort County Schools, Chocowinity Middle

2012 Patrice Faison, Guilford County Schools, Oak Hill Elementary

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

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

2009 Vann Pennell, Brunswick County Schools, South Brunswick High

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

2007 Craig Hill, Lenoir County Schools, Kinston High

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

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

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

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

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

2001 Peggy Smith, Johnston County Schools, East Clayton Elementary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I am hungry. Hungry to improve the learning experience of every scholar at our school. Hungry to enhance the joy of teaching for every educator on our campus. Hungry to build a better future where what is possible becomes probable due to the impact of the school experience upon our graduates. The hunger never goes away. I am never satisfied. Even when celebrating our achievements — 100% graduation rate, "A" School Performance Grade, "Exceeds Growth" status for the third year in a row — I am still hungry. We are getting there, but we are not there...yet."

Matthew Bristow-Smith 2019 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

Please share moments from today on social media using #nctoypoy The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year process is facilitated by the District & Regional Support Division.