Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

Celebrating North Carolina Educators:  
A Showcase of Excellence

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016 • THE UMSTEAD, CARY, NC

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We would like to thank everyone who participated in the nomination and selection process at all levels. Our special appreciation is extended to the following:

Wells Fargo is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company that has 308 stores and more than 31,000 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 $15.9 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 214,000 hours.

Wells Fargo and you – together we’ll go far.

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Founded in 1965 by entrepreneur Bertil Hult, EF (Education First) is a privately-held company with 16 divisions that offer a range of educational programs from language training, educational travel, and academic degrees to cultural exchanges. With a mission to break down barriers in language, culture and geography, EF has helped people of all ages and nationalities become citizens of the world.

From Berlin to Beijing, Moscow to Mexico City, Dubai to Denver, EF operates 400 schools and offices in over 50 countries. EF’s global network includes 9,000 staff and 25,000 teachers and guides. To date, EF has helped over 15 million people to learn a new language, discover the world, or earn an academic degree.

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 other memory book products, scholastic products such as class rings and graduation products, and products for athletic champions and their fans.

Jostens is a subsidiary of Visant Corporation, a marketing and publishing services enterprise servicing the school affinity, direct marketing, fragrance and cosmetics and personal care sampling and packaging, and educational and trade publishing segments.
WELCOME AND GREETINGS

DR. LYNNE JOHNSON • Director, Educator Effectiveness
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

A.C. COLLINS • Vice Chairman, North Carolina Board of Education

INVOCATION

DR. YVETTE STEWART • Assistant Director, Educator Effectiveness
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

LUNCHEON

REMARKS

GOVERNOR PAT MCCRARY’S OFFICE
CATHERINE L. TRUITT • Senior Education Advisor

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN FOREST
JUAN AUSTIN • Senior Vice President, Community Affairs Manager, Wells Fargo

STEPHANIE LENNON • Regional Manager, Education First Tours

TODD DEPPERSCHMIDT • Regional Sales Manager, Jostens

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

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL CANDIDATES

DR. REBECCA GARLAND • Deputy State Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2016 WELLS FARGO
NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

CARRIE GRAY • Vice President, Community Affairs Officer, Wells Fargo

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

DR. JUNE ATKINSON • North Carolina State Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
State Selection

Selecting the individual who will represent North Carolina’s principals and serve as a spokesperson for administrators and educators in our state is a most challenging task. After candidates are nominated by their local education agencies, a selection process follows that includes a rigorous portfolio exercise and an interview at the regional level. One principal is selected to represent each of the eight regions of North Carolina. The Regional Principals of the Year continue by participating in the process at the state level where selection committee members are chosen based on their dynamic public record in support of education. 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.

2016 STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE

DR. SHIRLEY CARRAWAY  
North Carolina Liaison, Southeast Comprehensive Center

PATRICIA FOUST  
Retired Assistant Superintendent, Randolph County Schools

DR. DENISE MORTON  
Director, Public School Outreach, Hill Center

DR. SHIRLEY PRINCE  
Executive Director, North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association

DR. YVETTE STEWART  
EX-OFFICIO – Assistant Director-Educator Effectiveness  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
William W. Peele III
NORTHEAST REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
Bertie Middle, Bertie County Schools

- 8 years experience
- East Carolina University (EdS/MSA)
- Elizabeth City State University (BA)
- Created a school reward program through Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) that rewards students for behavior and academics
- Successfully completed *Mastering Leadership Dynamics for Educational Leaders* at the BB&T Leadership Institute (2015)

Freda Ballard
First Flight Elementary
Dare County Schools

Stephen Basnight
JP Knapp Early College High
Currituck County Schools

Sharon Cherry
Creswell High
Washington County Schools

Charles Clark
Northside High
Beaufort County Schools

Ernest Cooley
Camden Middle
Camden County Schools

Amy Fyffe
Pasquotank County High
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

Maurice Harris
Wellcome Middle
Pitt County Schools

Martha Paige
Gaston Middle
Northampton County Schools

Jan Wagner
South Creek Middle
Martin County Schools

Jacqueline Williams
Pittman Elementary
Halifax County Schools
Molly E. White
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
Lincoln Elementary, Brunswick County Schools

• 11 years experience
• Keller Graduate School of Management (MBA/MSA)
• Western Illinois University (BS)
• Panel member for state-level Responsiveness to Intervention Team
• Participated in Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program (2015)

SOUTHEAST REGION DISTRICT WINNERS

Vickie Brown
Meadow View Elementary
Onslow County Schools

Yuvonka Davis
Greene County Pre-K Center
Greene County Schools

Wanda Fowler
Morehead City Primary
Carteret County Public Schools

Marvin Guthrie
Wallace-Rose Hill High
Duplin County Schools

Gary Hales
Wayne School of Engineering
Wayne County Public Schools

Dr. Eleanor Patrick
Trent Park Elementary
Craven County Schools

Steve Saint-Amand
South Lenoir High
Lenoir County Schools

Dr. Edith Skipper
Pender Early College High
Pender County Schools

Tremaine Young
Jones Middle
Jones County Schools
Matthew Hunt
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
Northern High, Durham Public Schools

- 3 years experience
- UNC-Chapel Hill (MSA)
- Harvard University (EdM)
- Williams College (BA)
- Achieved an overall staff retention rate of 92% in 2015
- Created a Student Advisory Council that meets regularly with the administrative team to make positive school-wide change

NORTH CENTRAL REGION DISTRICT WINNERS

Pattie Barnes
Springfield Middle
Wilson County Schools

Dr. Justin Bartholomew
Northwood High
Chatham County Schools

Clara Clinton
Lillington-Shawtown Elementary
Harnett County Schools

Kevin Cutler
South Edgecombe Middle
Edgecombe County Public Schools

Eric Fitts
Brentwood Elementary
Wake County Public School System

Sherita Fuller
North End Elementary
Person County Schools

Geoffrey Hawthorne
Edward Best Elementary
Franklin County Schools

Amy Lundy
Deep River Elementary
Lee County Schools

Quintin Mangano
Nashville Elementary
Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools

LaVerne Mattocks
Carrboro High
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Suzanne Mitchell
Selma Elementary
Johnston County Schools

Amy Rice
Stovall-Shaw Elementary
Granville County Public Schools

Heddie Somerville
Pinkston Street Elementary
Vance County Schools

Eric Yarbrough
Gravelly Hill Middle
Orange County Schools

Dr. Eleanor Patrick
Trent Park Elementary
Craven County Schools

Steve Saint-Amand
South Lenoir High
Lenoir County Schools

Dr. Edith Skipper
Pender Early College High
Pender County Schools

Tremaine Young
Jones Middle
Jones County Schools
Melody Chalmers
SANDHILLS REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
E.E. Smith High, Cumberland County Schools

- 10 years experience
- Fayetteville State University (MSA)
- North Carolina A&T State University (BS)
- Participant in the Sandhills Regional Principal Institute (2015)
- Worked to build partnerships with the 16th Military Police Brigade at Fort Bragg, 100 Black Men of the Cape Fear Region and TRIO programs at Fayetteville State University to provide tutoring and mentoring for students

Vanessa Brown
Butler Avenue School
Clinton City Schools

Dr. Dale Buie
Southern Pines Elementary
Moore County Schools

Chuck Dulin
South Scotland Elementary
Scotland County Schools

Richard Wendell Duncan
Nakina Middle
Columbus County Schools

Kimbrie Esters
Tar Heel Middle
Bladen County Schools

**SANDHILLS REGION DISTRICT WINNERS**

John Goode
Midway Middle
Sampson County Schools

Melvin Ingram, Jr.
Ellerbe Middle
Richmond County Schools

Bridget Parnell-Hayes
Hawk Eye Elementary
Hoke County Schools

Dr. Heather Seawell
East Montgomery High
Montgomery County Schools
Wayne Duggins, Jr.
PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
South Stokes High, Stokes County Schools

• 13 years experience
• Gardner-Webb University (MA)
• Penn State University (BS)
• Guided South Stokes High School through the AdvancEd accreditation process (2014)
• Preparing for a digital conversion to a one-to-one school (2016)

PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION DISTRICT WINNERS

Rex Allen
William R. Davie Elementary
Davie County Schools

Joe Ferrell
Walter M. Williams High
Alamance-Burlington School System

JoAnna Gwynn
Bartlett Yancey High
Caswell County Schools

Benjamin “Rusty” Hall
Old Town Elementary
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Dr. Jonathan Hayes
Stoner-Thomas
Davidson County Schools

Diane Hill
Rockingham County Early College High School
Rockingham County Schools

Alan Parker
Southwest High
Guilford County Schools

Brian Saunders
South Asheboro Middle
Asheboro City Schools

Lisa Thompson
Archdale Elementary
Randolph County School System

Alison York
Pilot Mountain Elementary
Surry County Schools
Dr. Maureen Furr
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
South Mecklenburg High, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

- 26 years principal experience
- Columbia University (EdD)
- Montclair State College (MA)
- Northern Illinois University (MSEd)
- Alleghany College (BA)
- Participated in CMS Innovation Institute
- Conceived and launched IDEA Academy, focusing on development of 21st century skills in context of innovation and design through engineering and art

SOUTHWEST REGION DISTRICT WINNERS

Nick Carlassio
Forest Park Elementary
Kannapolis City Schools

Joey Clinton
Ashbrook High
Gaston County Schools

Dr. Latoya Dixon
Knox Middle
Rowan-Salisbury Schools

Devry “Dee” Gibbs
NF Woods Advanced Technology and Arts Center
Mooresville Graded School District

Heather Houser
Union Elementary
Lincoln County Schools

Michael Jolley
Northwest Cabarrus High
Cabarrus County Schools

Amy Jones
Crest Middle
Cleveland County Schools

Joshua McLaurin
Anson Middle
Anson County Schools

Scott Spencer
Shiloh Elementary
Union County Public Schools

Anne Watson
North Stanly Middle
Stanly County Schools

Stacy Williams
Pressly Elementary
Iredell-Statesville Schools
**Kelly Nicholson**

**NORTHWEST REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**
Oxford Elementary, Catawba County Schools

- 6 years experience
- UNC-Charlotte (MSA)
- Appalachian State University (BS)
- North Carolina Principal Fellow
- Created ROAR Intervention Schedule to provide targeted and specific interventions to support student learning
- Implemented the *Leader in Me* school-wide transformational model which equips students with self-confidence and leadership skills they need to be successful

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**NORTHWEST REGION DISTRICT WINNERS**

**David Blackburn**
Mountain View Elementary
Ashe County Schools

**Candis Hagaman**
Caldwell Early College High
Caldwell County Schools

**Lisa Joines**
North Wilkes High
Wilkes County Schools

**Brenda Reese**
Freedom Trail Elementary
Avery County Schools

**John Robinson**
Discovery High
Newton-Conover City Schools

**Sherry Robinson**
Bald Creek Elementary
Yancey County Schools

**Lisa Robinson**
McDowell Early College
McDowell County Schools

**Rene Stilwell**
Hiddenite Elementary
Alexander County Schools

**Patrick Sukow**
Blowing Rock Elementary
Watauga County Schools

**Dr. Jenny White**
Southwest Elementary
Hickory Public Schools
Peggy K. Marshall
WESTERN REGIONAL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR
Sugarloaf Elementary, Henderson County Public Schools

- 8 years experience
- University of Scranton (MS)
- Appalachian State University (BS)
- Participated in Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program (2015)
- Raised the perception of trust and mutual respect in the school by +41.5 percentage points since her tenure in the school (NC TWC 2014)

WESTERN REGION DISTRICT WINNERS

Sherri Arrington
Junaluska Elementary
Haywood County Schools

Jacob Buchanan
Smoky Mountain High
Jackson County Public Schools

Sarah Cain
Ira B. Jones Elementary
Asheville City Schools

Jack Evans
North Buncombe High
Buncombe County Schools

Angel King
Spindale Elementary
Rutherford County Schools

Mark Sale
Swain County High
Swain County Schools

Paul Wilson
Martins Creek School
Cherokee County Schools
2015 Wells Fargo North Carolina Regional Principals of the Year

Steve Lassiter Jr.
2015 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year
NORTHEAST REGION, PACTOLUS SCHOOL, PITT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Dr. Robin Hamilton
SOUTHEAST REGION
New Hanover County Schools

Dr. Adam Auerbach
SOUTHWEST REGION
Cabarrus County Schools

Tonya Williams
NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Durham Public Schools

Jeremy Shane Mace
NORTHWEST REGION
Burke County Schools

Kim Robertson
SANDHILLS REGION
Cumberland County Schools

W. Scott Rhodes
WESTERN REGION
Henderson County Public Schools

Christopher Poston
PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION
Chatham County Schools
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 36 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principals of the Year, 232 regional award recipients, and 2,975 local Wells Fargo Principals of the Year.

This program recognizes principals at the local, regional, and statewide levels. The Wells Fargo Principal of the Year serves as the North Carolina ambassador for public education and represents our state at the National Level. The state designee serves in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education and a one-year term on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Public School Forum.

### previous winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Steve Lassiter, Jr.</td>
<td>Pitt County Schools, Pactolus School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Dr. Carrie Tulbert</td>
<td>Mooresville Graded School District, Mooresville Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Dale Cole</td>
<td>Beaufort County Schools, Chocowinity Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Patrice Faison</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools, Oak Hill Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Rob Jackson</td>
<td>Union County Public Schools, Cuthbertson High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Jan King</td>
<td>Henderson County Schools, Glenn C. Marlow Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Vann Pennell</td>
<td>Brunswick County Schools, South Brunswick High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Debra Morris</td>
<td>Kannapolis City Schools, A.L. Brown High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Craig Hill</td>
<td>Lenoir County Schools, Kinston High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Marian Yates</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, South Mecklenburg High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Margaret Hyatt</td>
<td>Buncombe County Schools, Avery’s Creek Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>John R. Black</td>
<td>Hickory City Schools, Longview Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Nina René Corders</td>
<td>Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Lloyd G. Winberley</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Myers Park High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Peggy Smith</td>
<td>Johnston County Schools, East Clayton Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Gail T. Edmondson</td>
<td>Greene County Schools, Snow Hill Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Daniel A. Piggott</td>
<td>Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools, Carver High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Pandora M. Bell</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools, Jesse Wharton Elementary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Every great leader is a great teacher, and the greatest leaders seize every opportunity to teach well.”
—Albert Mohler

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>School/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Judith H. Budacz</td>
<td>Pitt County Schools, Wahl-Coates Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Mary D. McDuffie</td>
<td>Cumberland County Schools, Seventy-First High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Jo Ann Bowman</td>
<td>Lee County Schools, J. Glenn Edwards Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>David C. Burleson</td>
<td>Burke County Schools, Freedom High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Ann B. Clark</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Alexander Graham Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Jane B. Burke</td>
<td>Hertford County Schools, Hertford County High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>John M. Schroeder</td>
<td>High Point City Schools, Fairview Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>John R. Griffin</td>
<td>Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Dan A. Jones</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools, Erwin Open Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986*</td>
<td>Patricia F. Gibson Janie E. Manning</td>
<td>Newton-Conover City Schools, Newton-Conover Middle Pitt County Schools, Bethel Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985*</td>
<td>Alice H. Hart Beverly S. White</td>
<td>Buncombe County Schools, Glen Arden Elementary Hickory City Schools, Jenkins Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984*</td>
<td>Robert A. Clendenin Alexander Erwin</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools, Paige High Wilkes County Schools, Wilkes Central High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

When everyone comes together, wonderful things can happen. This event is the result of a lot of hard work by many talented people. The spirit of community is alive and well, right here and now.

2016 Wells Fargo NC Principal of the Year, you represent the heart and soul of true community.