North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Celebrating North Carolina Educators: 
A Showcase of Excellence

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016 • THE UMSTEAD, CARY, NC

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction
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:

**BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND** – The Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) is an independent private foundation dedicated to advancing the biomedical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. Within this broad mission, BWF seeks to help scientists early in their careers develop as independent investigators and to advance fields in the biomedical sciences that are undervalued or in need of particular encouragement. BWF was founded in 1955 as the corporate foundation of Burroughs Wellcome Co., the U.S. branch of the Wellcome pharmaceutical enterprise, based in the United Kingdom. In 1993, BWF received a $400 million gift from the Wellcome Trust to become a fully independent foundation.

**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.

**THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING** – The Center for International Understanding serves North Carolina by promoting awareness, expanding understanding, and empowering action through global education. CIU’s programs for business, policy, and education leaders aim to make North Carolina the most globally engaged state in the nation. Founded in 1979, CIU is part of the University of North Carolina system.

**LENOVO** – Lenovo is committed to supporting educators. As the number one PC company in the world and a global industry leader in the education market, Lenovo is committed to making a sustainable difference in support of teachers, students, classrooms, and education-related initiatives through innovative products and solutions, community investments, and collaborative partnerships. With over 2,200 employees at its Morrisville headquarters and Guilford County manufacturing center, Lenovo is proud to call North Carolina home.
Welcome and Greetings

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

STEVE LASSITER, JR. • 2015 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year
State Board of Education Advisor

Invocation

DR. CYNTHIA M. MARTIN • Professional Development Leadership Coordinator
Educator Effectiveness, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Luncheon • 12:00pm

Remarks

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

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN FOREST

DR. JOHN E. BURRIS • President, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

MEREDITH L. HENDERSON • Senior Director of Programs
The Center for International Understanding

SAM MORRIS • Worldwide Education Segment Executive, Lenovo

KEANA C. TRIPLETT • 2015 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Recognition of Regional Candidates

BRANDON PATTERSON • Assistant Director, Federal Program Monitoring and Support
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Announcement of 2016 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

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

Closing and Adjournment

DR. YVETTE STEWART • Assistant Director, Educator Effectiveness
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Since 1970, North Carolina has participated in the North Carolina Teacher of the Year program recognizing its outstanding teachers. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, along with its sponsors, recognizes teachers at the school, district, regional, and statewide levels. First, individuals are chosen to represent their respective schools as Teacher of the Year, then they advance to compete at the district level. Once the district selections have been made, the winners vie as one of the state’s nine Regional Teachers of the Year. This selection process is facilitated in each region by Regional Education Facilitators representing the Educator Effectiveness Division at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Similarly, individual charter schools nominate Teachers of the Year who participate in a selection process facilitated by the Office of Charter Schools at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Charter Schools are clustered together to form the ninth region of the state. After the district and charter school nomination processes are completed, the Charter School Teacher of the Year joins the Regional Teachers of the Year team as a finalist for the state Teacher of the Year.

Naming the individual who will represent North Carolina and serve as a spokesperson for all teachers in our state is a challenging task. The state 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 educators in our state.

Patricia Foust • Retired Assistant Superintendent • Randolph County Schools
Dr. Gregory Hicks • Retired Assistant Superintendent • Orange County Schools
Mark Jewell • Vice President • North Carolina Association of Educators
Mike Martin • Associate Director • Policy and Program • Hunt Institute
Dr. Yvette Stewart, Ex Officio Member • Assistant Director • Educator Effectiveness • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Marie Smith
Northeast Region Teacher of the Year
Conway Middle, Northampton County Schools
- Teaches 5th Grade Science and Math
- 22 years teaching experience
- Chowan University (MEd)
- North Carolina State University (BA)
- Serves as Team Lead of the Conway Middle Innovative Leadership Academy Team
- National Board Certified Teacher

Northeast Region Winners

Stephanie Ambrose
Weeksville Elementary
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

Melissa Boyd
Bath Elementary
Beaufort County Schools

Laurie Brooks
John A. Holmes High
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Kathryn Cargile
Hope Middle
Pitt County Schools

Pamela Djigounian
Camden Middle
Camden County Schools

Tonya Hedgepeth
Pittman Elementary
Halifax County Schools

Mollee Holloman
Manteo Elementary
Dare County Schools

Patrick Quast
Chaloner Middle
Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools

Anissa Robinson
Weldon Elementary
Weldon City Schools

Harold Sanderlin
Shawboro Elementary
Currituck County Schools

Paige Smith
Mattamuskeet Elementary
Hyde County Schools

Kristin Stahl
East End Elementary
Martin County Schools

Erika Stephenson
Hertford County Middle
Hertford County Public Schools

Christy Stevens
Gatesville Elementary
Gates County Schools

Kortney Watford
Windsor Elementary
Bertie County Schools

Angel White
Perquimans County High
Perquimans County Schools
Katie Snyder
Southeast Region Teacher of the Year
John T. Hoggard High, New Hanover County Schools

• Teaches 9-12 World History & Psychology
• 7 years teaching experience
• UNC-W (2016 doctoral candidate)
• UNC-Wilmington (MEd) (BA)
• Serves as Master Teacher, UNC-W Watson School of Education Master Teacher Program
• National Board Certified Teacher

Southeast Region Winners

Stephanie Edwards
Brinson Memorial Elementary
Craven County Schools

Mary Hudson
Cape Fear Elementary
Pender County Schools

Jeri (Denise) Humphries
Chinquapin Elementary
Duplin County Schools

Angela Joyner
Grantham Middle
Wayne County Public Schools

Erik Matticola
Swansboro High
Onslow County Schools

Thomas B. “Brad” Robinson
Croatan High
Carteret County Public Schools

Melvin Smith, Jr.
Jones Sr. High
Jones County Schools

Laura Sokol-Scott
Leland Middle
Brunswick County Schools

Christine Wayne
Pamlico County High
Pamlico County Schools

Amy White
Contentnea-Savannah K-8
Lenoir County Schools
Margaret C. McNeill
**North Central Region Teacher of the Year**
Dunn Middle, Harnett County Schools

- Teaches 7th Grade English Language Arts
- 12 years teaching experience
- Fayetteville State University (BS)
- Serves as a mentor teacher, Lead ELA Teacher for Dunn Middle, and cooperating teacher for Campbell University
- Participates in several community projects: Project Playground, Educational Enrichment Project ASCEND, Human Rights Committee
- 2015 Recipient of Dunn Chamber of Commerce “Golden Apple Award”

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**North Central Region Winners**

**Benita Arrington**  
Laurel Mill Elementary  
Franklin County Schools

**Wendy Bryant Motley**  
Broadway Elementary  
Lee County Schools

**Charlene Burroughs**  
Granville Central High  
Granville County Schools

**Leslie Burwell**  
Northwood High  
Chatham County Schools

**James Guy**  
Edgecombe Early College  
Edgecombe County Public Schools

**Cynthia Hutchings**  
Smithfield Selma High  
Johnston County Schools

**Michelle Jackson**  
Coopers Elementary  
Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools

**Michael Jones**  
Culbreth Middle  
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

**Lori Khan**  
Middle College High @ DTCC  
Durham Public Schools

**Laura Nelson**  
Margaret Hearne Elementary  
Wilson County Schools

**Matthew Scialdone**  
Middle Creek High  
Wake County Public School System

**Erin Simons**  
Vaughan Elementary  
Warren County Schools

**Elizabeth Sinnott**  
South Elementary  
Person County Schools

**Julie White**  
Gravelly Hill Middle  
Orange County Schools

**Nicole Williamson**  
Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf  
State Operated Program

**Robin Wilson**  
New Hope Elementary  
Vance County Schools
Olivia W. Hall
Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year
Roseboro-Salemburg Middle, Sampson County Schools

• Teaches 6th & 7th Grade English Language Arts
• 5 years teaching experience
• UNC-Wilmington (MEd)
• East Carolina University (BS)
• Serves as coach for “Battle of the Books” team which received local, regional and state recognition
• Teacher Representative, Sampson County Schools District Improvement Plan

Sandhills Region Winners

Ashlee Garrison
New Century International Elementary
Cumberland County Schools

Jennifer Hair
East Bladen High
Bladen County Schools

Wenona Mishue
Spring Hill Middle
Scotland County Schools

Trina Osborne
Central Middle
Whiteville City Schools

LaTanya Pattillo
East Columbus High
Columbus County Schools

Morina Ricablanca
East Hoke Middle
Hoke County Schools

Leonardo Romero
Rex-Rennert Elementary
Public Schools of Robeson County

Sandra Starling
L.C. Kerr Elementary
Clinton City Schools

Sarah Talbert
East Montgomery High
Montgomery County Schools

Valeria “Joy” Watson
East Rockingham Elementary
Richmond County Schools

Ashley Williams
Sandhills Farm Life Elementary
Moore County Schools
Kevin Scharen
Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year
Alamance-Burlington Early College at ACC, Alamance-Burlington School System

- Teaches 9-12 Mathematics
- 11 years teaching experience
- Molloy College – Teaching Certificate
- St. Joseph’s College (BS)
- Serves as Math Department Chairperson and EVAAS trainer
- District-wide AIG/Differentiation PD Presenter

Piedmont–Triad Region Winners

Tonya Baity
Tyro Elementary
Davidson County Schools

Yancy Burklow
Boonville Elementary
Yadkin County Schools

Bronson Ericksen
Elkin Middle
Elkin City Schools

Fanisha Fuller
Oak Hill Elementary
Guilford County Schools

Joy Harman
Southwest Elementary
Lexington City Schools

David Koontz
Davie County High
Davie County Schools

Sara “Katie” Lemons
South Stokes High
Stokes County Schools

Shelli Owens
Mount Airy Middle
Mount Airy City Schools

Marcy Piotrowski
South End Elementary
Rockingham County Schools

Claudia Rodriguez
North Asheboro Middle
Asheboro City Schools

Charity Sutphin
Parkland High
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Sarah Wood
Liberty Drive Elementary
Thomasville City Schools

Kevin Scharen
Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year
Alamance-Burlington Early College at ACC, Alamance-Burlington School System

- Teaches 9-12 Mathematics
- 11 years teaching experience
- Molloy College – Teaching Certificate
- St. Joseph’s College (BS)
- Serves as Math Department Chairperson and EVAAS trainer
- District-wide AIG/Differentiation PD Presenter
Bobbie J. Cavnar
Southwest Region Teacher of the Year
South Point High, Gaston County Schools

- Teaches 9-12 English and Journalism
- 16 years teaching experience
- UNC-Charlotte (MA)
- Florida State University (BS)
- Serves as Gaston County Schools’ New Teacher Induction Program for Success trainer
- NCAE Representative for South Point High

Southwest Region Winners

Lisa Austen
Sandy Ridge Elementary
Union County Schools

Kelly Bumgardner
Northwest Cabarrus Middle
Cabarrus County Schools

Joyce Davenport
Anson High
Anson County Schools

Matthew Dukes
River Gate Elementary
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Nancy Goodnight
Millbridge Elementary
Rowan-Salisbury Schools

Ashley Hooks
Springmore Elementary
Cleveland County Schools

Jacquelyn Lane
Jackson Park Elementary
Kannapolis City Schools

Brooke McCurdy
Collaborative College Technology and Leadership
Iredell-Statesville Schools

Serenity Smith
Stanly Early College High
Stanly County Schools

Allen Stevens
Mooresville Middle
Mooresville Graded School District
Leah Hayes
Northwest Region Teacher of the Year
South Newton Elementary, Newton-Conover City Schools

- Teaches Kindergarten
- 16 years teaching experience
- Lenoir-Rhyne University (BA)
- Digital Days Presenter (2012-2016)
- Serves as certified “Leader in Me” trainer
- National Board Certified Teacher

Northwest Region Winners

John Ballard
West McDowell Middle
McDowell County Schools

Deanna Berrier
Traphill Elementary
Wilkes County Schools

Linda Chandler
Liberty Middle
Burke County Public Schools

Michelle Dellinger
Avery County High
Avery County Schools

Jeanna Goodson
Maiden High
Catawba County Schools

Jordan Hefner
Stony Point Elementary
Alexander County Schools

Kelly Lambert
Mountain View Elementary
Ashe County Schools

Melissa McKinnon
Grandview Middle
Hickory Public Schools

Misty McKnight
Sparta Elementary
Alleghany County Schools

Linda Pitman
Mitchell High
Mitchell County Schools

Randall (Randy) Seldomridge
Granite Falls Middle
Caldwell County Schools

Allison Sparks
Bethel Elementary
Watauga County Schools

Leah Hayes
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South Newton Elementary, Newton-Conover City Schools

- Teaches Kindergarten
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Avery County High
Avery County Schools

Jeanna Goodson
Maiden High
Catawba County Schools

Jordan Hefner
Stony Point Elementary
Alexander County Schools

Kelly Lambert
Mountain View Elementary
Ashe County Schools

Melissa McKinnon
Grandview Middle
Hickory Public Schools

Misty McKnight
Sparta Elementary
Alleghany County Schools

Linda Pitman
Mitchell High
Mitchell County Schools

Randall (Randy) Seldomridge
Granite Falls Middle
Caldwell County Schools

Allison Sparks
Bethel Elementary
Watauga County Schools
Angel Ledbetter
Western Region Teacher of the Year
Rutherford Early College High, Rutherford County Schools

• Teaches 9-12 Social Studies
• 5 years teaching experience
• Appalachian State University (BA)
• Serves on the Rutherford County Teacher Advisory Council
• Co-developer of Rutherford County School’s social studies credit recovery courses
• North Carolina Teaching Fellow

Western Region Winners

Pamela Arrowood
Polk County High
Polk County Schools

Andrea Chalker
Highlands K-12
Macon County Schools

Ray Crawford
Fairview School
Jackson County Public Schools

Brian Gonzales
Clyde A. Erwin High
Buncombe County Schools

Amy Harrington
Bethel Middle
Haywood County Schools

Laura Jane Howald
Asheville City Preschool
Asheville City Schools

Julie Hughes
Murphy Middle
Cherokee County Schools

Brandon Rice
Madison High
Madison County Schools

Jennifer Sensabaugh
Brevard Middle
Transylvania County Schools

Amy Shelton
Hayesville Elementary
Clay County Schools

Misty Shope
Robbinsville Middle
Graham County Schools
Brandon Brown
Charter Schools Teacher of the Year
Lake Norman Charter, Huntersville, NC

- Teaches 11th and 12th grade US History
- 10 years teaching experience
- State University of New York (MS)
- Nazareth College of Rochester (BA)
- Serves as contributor to the APUSH (AP US History) National Teacher Podcast
- 95% Advanced Placement pass rate with an average score over 4.2 between 2013-2015

Charter School Winners

Ken Boyer
Voyager Academy

Charissa Denny
Roxboro Community

Chanda Foxx Allen
Chatham Charter

Carl Harrington
East Wake Academy

Ellen Hotaling
Invest Collegiate

Elizabeth Kay Salema
Socrates Academy
2015 North Carolina Regional Teachers of the Year

Keana C. Triplett
2015 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year
Northwest • Region 7
Ashe County High • Ashe County Schools

Jami Dickerson
Northeast Region
Pitt County Schools

Joshua D. Gaskill
Southeast Region
Pamlico County Schools

Jeremy C. Tucker
North Central Region
Wilson County Schools

Mariel Barker Sellers
Sandhills Region
Columbus County Schools

JoAnna Massoth
Piedmont-Triad Region
Chatham County Schools

Jennifer Whitley
Southwest Region
Union County Public Schools

Randy Pressley
Western Region
Haywood County Schools

Elizabeth Anne Padgett
Charter Schools
Huntersville, NC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade/Grade Levels</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Keana C. Triplett</td>
<td>Ashe County Schools</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>James E. Ford</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</td>
<td>World History</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Karyn Collie Dickerson</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Darcy Grimes</td>
<td>Watauga County Schools</td>
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<td>3rd Grade</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Tyronna Hooker</td>
<td>Alamance-Burlington Schools</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Jennifer J. Faccioliini</td>
<td>Sampson County Schools</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Jessica Garner</td>
<td>Union County Public Schools</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Cindi Rigsbee</td>
<td>Orange County Schools</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Middle School, “National Finalist”</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>James Bell</td>
<td>Edenton-Chowan Public Schools</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>8th Grade</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Diana Beasley</td>
<td>Hickory City Schools</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Wendy Miller</td>
<td>Craven County Schools</td>
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<td>Grades K-2</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Lizbeth Alfaro</td>
<td>Catawba County Schools</td>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Grades K-6</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Allison Ormond</td>
<td>Rockingham County Schools</td>
<td>Language Arts/Social Studies</td>
<td>7th Grade</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Melissa Bartlett</td>
<td>Iredell-Statesville Schools</td>
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<td>“National Finalist”</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Carmen Wilson</td>
<td>Ashe County Schools</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Laura Bilbro-Berry</td>
<td>Beaufort County Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Kimberly H. Hughes</td>
<td>Wake County Schools</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Rebecca O. Hoyle</td>
<td>Onslow County Schools</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Grades K-5</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Julian L. Coggins, Jr.</td>
<td>Cabarrus County Schools</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Richard Scott Griffin</td>
<td>Gaston County Schools</td>
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<td>5th Grade</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Vernestine Kent Taylor</td>
<td>Wilson County Schools</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Sandra C. Wells</td>
<td>Asheville City Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Buncombe Co.), Team Teacher, 1st &amp; 4th Grades</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Sarah M. Pratt</td>
<td>McDowell County Schools</td>
<td>English/Social Studies</td>
<td>High School, “National Hall of Fame Winner”</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Dixie F. Abernathy</td>
<td>Gaston County Schools</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Junior High School</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Annie Pegram</td>
<td>Durham City Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Durham Co.), 1st Grade</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Louis Gottlieb</td>
<td>Granville County Schools</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Sandra Davis Rogers</td>
<td>Rowan County Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st-3rd Grades</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Merv Sessoms</td>
<td>Haywood County Schools</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Cynthia B. Zeger-Osthrough</td>
<td>Salisbury City Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Rowan Co.), Mathematics</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Pamela F. Brewer</td>
<td>Person County Schools</td>
<td>English/Journalism</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Phillip R. Dail</td>
<td>Wake County Schools</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Jean Paul Powell</td>
<td>Clinton City Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Sampson Co.), English, 12th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>James Jerome Williams</td>
<td>Burke County Schools</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Penelope Sue Smith</td>
<td>Asheboro City Schools</td>
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<td>(Randolph Co.), Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Linda Lee</td>
<td>Burlington City Schools</td>
<td>(Alamance Co.), English</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Jo Ann Payne Norris</td>
<td>Wake County Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Ruth P. Watkins</td>
<td>Richmond County Schools</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Ted Scott Henson</td>
<td>Vance County Schools</td>
<td>Language Arts/Social Studies</td>
<td>5th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Ruby Murchison</td>
<td>Fayetteville City Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Cumberland Co.), Language Arts/Social Studies, 7th Grade, “National Winner”</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Herman L. Forbes</td>
<td>High Point City Schools</td>
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<td>(Guilford Co.), 6th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Frances A. Kiser</td>
<td>Cleveland County Schools</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>High School</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Sarah E. Spivey</td>
<td>Raleigh City Schools</td>
<td>(Wake Co.), 4th-5th Grade, “National Finalist”</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Genella Allison</td>
<td>Hickory City Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Catawba Co.), English/Journalism, High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

– JOHN QUINCY ADAMS –

Follow us at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/educatoreffectiveness/recognition/toy/

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year process is facilitated by the Educator Effectiveness Division.