2011-2012 NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

APRIL 6, 2011



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.

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 administers the program at the state level. Corporate sponsors also contribute to this program.

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." The State Teacher of the Year will be asked to travel, speak on behalf of education and demonstrates master teaching skills and represent our state educators nationwide.

The program recognizes teachers at the school, local, regional and statewide levels. Individuals are chosen to represent their school as Teacher of the Year then advance to competition at the school-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 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, seven at the middle or junior high school level and twenty-one at the high school level.

DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY APRIL 6, 2011

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

INVOCATION

Jessica Garner 2009-2010 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

DINNER

REMARKS

Governor Bev Perdue Governor of North Carolina

Dr. William C. Harrison State Board of Education Chairman

State Board of Education Chairman

Meredith Hunter

North Carolina Center for International Understanding

Darrin Scott

Area Manager for North Carolina SMART Technologies

REFLECTIONS

Jennifer Facciolini

2010-2011 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Midway High School Sampson County Schools

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR Dr. June Atkinson

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

2011-2012 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

CLOSING REMARKS

Brandon Patterson

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

DR. JUNE ST. CLAIR ATKINSON - State Superintendent of Public Instruction

June St. Clair Atkinson was elected as the North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction in November 2004 and re-elected in 2008. Dr. Atkinson is North Carolina's first woman elected to this position. She heads the NC Department of Public Instruction, an agency which she served for nearly 28 years as a chief consultant and director in the areas of business education, career and technical education, and instructional services. As a former business education teacher, Atkinson has been involved in instruction and curriculum development throughout her career. She is past president of the National Business Education Association, Southern Regional Education Board's High Schools that Work, and the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium. Dr. Atkinson is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa and was inducted into East Carolina University's College of Education Education Hall of Fame in 2008. She received a Bachelor's degree in Business Education from Radford University in 1969, a Master's degree in Vocational and Technical Education from Virginia Tech in 1974, and a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from North Carolina State University in 1996.

DR. WILLIAM C. HARRISON - North Carolina State Board of Education Chairman

Dr. Harrison was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Beverly Perdue in March 2009. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Harrison has served North Carolina public schools throughout his career. In addition to more than 11 years as Superintendent in Cumberland County, he also has served as Superintendent in Orange County and in Hoke County. He has also served as an Assistant Superintendent in Brunswick County Schools and as a principal and teacher. Dr. Harrison is an adjunct assistant professor at North Carolina State University. His experience includes serving on numerous state commissions, most recently as Co-Chair of the Education Lottery Oversight Committee and as Vice-Chair of the Military Child Education Coalition. Dr. Harrison holds a bachelor's degree in Intermediate Education from Methodist College -Fayetteville, a master's degree in Educational Administration and an Education Specialist degree in Education Administration from East Carolina University, and an Educational doctorate in Education Administration from Vanderbilt University.

2011-2012 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTION COMMITTEE

JAN WEBSTER, ED.D.

Director Western Region Education Service Alliance

ELSIE LEAK, ED.D.

Former State Associate Superintendent Education Consultant

JAN KING

2010 Wachovia Principal of the Year Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School *Henderson County Schools*

DONALD BARRINGER

Teaching Fellows Coordinator North Carolina Central University

DEBRA HORTON

President
North Carolina Parent Teacher Association

JENNIFER FACCIOLINI - EX OFFICIO

2010-2011 North Carolina Teacher of the Year Midway High School Sampson County Schools

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

2010-2011 TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM

2010-2011 NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Jennifer Facciolini Southeast Region Sampson County Schools



Vann Mizzelle Lassiter Northeast Region Edenton-Chowan Public Schools



Rene Herrick North Central Region Wake County Public Schools



Amber Alford Watkins Sandhills/South Central Region Scotland County Schools



Courtney R. Davis Piedmont-Triad/ Central Region Randolph County Schools



David Dahari Southwest Region Union County Schools



Joy Jenkins Northwest Region Rowan-Salisbury Schools



Dorothy Reid Case Western Region Henderson County Schools



Stuart Miles Charter Schools Evergreen Community Charter School

TEACHER OF THE YEAR REGIONAL MAP





ASSIGNMENT Grade 8, Pre-Algebra and Algebra River Road Middle School Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

EXPERIENCE

6 years, 2 in current position Math and Science Teacher, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools AVID Elective Teacher, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Math and Science Teacher, Chowan County Public Schools 3 years, AVID Site Team Member

EDUCATION

- Masters of Arts in Special Education, East Carolina University, will complete in December 2011
- Lateral Entry NCTeach online cohort, East Carolina University, 2006
- Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, North Carolina State University, Magna Cum Laude, 2005

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

- Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Teacher of the Year, 2010-11 River Road Middle School Teacher of the
- Year, 2010-11 National Board Certified Teacher, Early
- Adolescence Mathematics, 2011 North Carolina Middle School Association
- Region 1 Team of the Year, 2007-08

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Council for Teachers of Mathematics Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) School Level Site Team District Design Team, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Great American Teachers Club

Suzie Sanders NORTHEAST REGION Elizabeth City/Pasquotank Public Schools

Just the other day my homeroom students were completing their 8th grade Superlative selections. I was walking around the classroom ensuring that they were finishing up as I noticed a student writing my name in one of the blanks. Upon closer inspection, I realized he had voted me "Most Likely to Brighten Your Day." I chuckled to myself as I thought, "No, it's just the opposite." – My students brighten my day and each and every minute I spend in the classroom. Their innocence, talent, and love inspire me to achieve my ultimate goal every time I step foot into my classroom- for my students to learn, not simply to be taught. I believe it is critical to build strong relationships with your students so you truly understand them and what motivates them. If you open your heart and show them that you trust and care for them, they will rise to meet your high expectations. It is my love for all of my students and my belief that they all can succeed that challenges me to be the best teacher I can be as long as I have the **privilege** of being called their teacher.

When I reflect back on the journey that got me here I cannot determine the turning point. Though I may have been majoring in Biomedical Engineering in college and teaching seemed a far cry from what the future held for me, I know that my passion and love for teaching has been present in my life from a very young age. I was blessed to be surrounded by a family who had always put great emphasis on the importance of education. Since my middle school years and on into college I tutored peers. In high school I even sent a letter to the President of my private school urging him to create a more rigorous math program at our school.

Educating others has always been a passion of mine – it is the single greatest challenge I have taken on as I strive to engage my students in their learning every day. I believe that if we truly engage the minds of our nation's youth, as a nation we will no longer be wondering how to remain globally competitive. By challenging and engaging their minds, our students will learn at a profound level; they will be successful in this 21st century, global world.

I am a teacher because I am passionate about teaching. I am passionate about building relationships with my students, challenging them, engaging them, and teaching them to think on their own. Teaching gives me complete pride, joy, and fulfillment in a profession in which I believe I am truly making a difference. I am blessed to be able to call my passion and love my work.





Susan Casper Gates County Schools



Julio Morales Hyde County Schools



Dana Webb Edenton-Chowan County Schools



Kristine Doster Martin County Schools



Stephen Nichols
Dare County Schools



Dana Hudnell Beaufort County Schools



Christi Lilley Rogerson Washington County Schools



Lynn Kotzian Currituck County Schools



Carol Swain Hertford County Schools



Rose Taylor Lee Camden County Schools



Jennifer Hall Veverka Bertie County Schools



Lynwood Winslow III Perquimans County Schools

"By challenging and engaging their minds our students will learn at profound levels – they will be successful in this 21st century, global world." – SUZIE SANDERS



ASSIGNMENT Grade 1 Bogue Sound Elementary School Carteret County Schools

EXPERIENCE

10 years experience, 6 in current position Teacher, Carteret County Schools, North Carolina Teacher, Wake County Public Schools, North Carolina Teacher, Durham Public Schools, North Carolina

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill BA Elementary Education and Biology

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Southeast Region Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011 Carteret County Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011

Bogue Sound Elementary Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011

Recipient of Bright Ideas Grants, 2008, 2009, 2010

Recipient of DonorsChoose Grants, 4 fully funded grants since spring, 2009 National Board Certification, 2005 North Carolina Teaching Fellow, 1996

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Summer Leadership Academy, Carteret County, 2009, 2010 Cooperating Teacher for Clinical Interns,

ECU, 2006-present

Callie Smith SOUTHEAST REGION Carteret County Schools

I have wanted to become a teacher all my life. My mother saved an "All About Me" book I made in first grade. It states, "When I grow up, I will be a teacher and an artist". First graders can be very intuitive! My senior year, I applied for the Teaching Fellows program. I was also nominated for the Morehead Scholarship at UNC. Although I did not receive the Morehead Scholarship, I will never forget the last question I was asked in that interview, "As a teacher, and on a teacher's salary, how do you expect to be able to pay back the Morehead Scholar program for future candidates?" My response was, "I will be preparing your future candidates, your future doctors, lawyers, politicians, etc, by providing them with the best education possible." As a proud Teaching Fellow, I still firmly believe that the teaching profession is the basis for all other professions, because without highly-skilled teachers who are able to motivate our youth, the other professions would not exist.

I think my greatest contributions and accomplishments happen every day in my first grade classroom. They are the relationships I form with each of my students. I love each and every child who walks through my door. I am determined to provide them with exactly what they need. Sometimes it is not always a reading group or a math lesson. Some days it is a hug, a life lesson, a snack, or extra sleep. As a teacher, I differentiate to meet the needs of ALL learners in my classroom. The greatest contribution I, or any other teacher, can make to the teaching profession is providing the very best education to EVERY student.

My teaching philosophy varies some from year to year, incorporating new strategies based on the latest research, but mostly, it is unwavering. Children are individuals. They have different needs, interests, and ways of learning. I am an outstanding teacher, because I incorporate a vast array of teaching styles to meet their vast array of learning styles. We teach the *whole* child. Lessons should not just focus on academics, but should also include social and emotional strategies to help them solve everyday problems. I believe in positive reinforcement and in the importance of parent involvement. I am a firm believer in the "school community". We are all lifelong learners, and the only way to thrive as a school is to collaborate with colleagues so we can all benefit from each other's strengths.

The rewards I find in teaching are intrinsic. I find comfort in the assurance that I have bettered our collective future by meeting the needs of every child. I provide hope, security, and passion. When they come back to "visit", when they invite me to their birthday, and when they say they loved my class, those are my true rewards.





Carl Bradshaw Greene County Schools



Deirdre Moore Clinton City Schools

Doris Tursi

Onslow County Schools



Scott S. Hardy Wayne County Schools



Pender County Schools





Carol Williams Sampson County Schools



Kimberly S. Horton New Hanover County Schools





Rebecca "Becky" Willis Brunswick County Schools



Jeremy J. Johnson Pamlico County Schools



Mary Anderson Riddick Lenoir County Schools



Jane Kazleman Jones County Schools



Caroline Stillwell Craven County Schools

"We teach the whole child. Lessons should not just focus on academics, but should also include social and emotional strategies to help them solve everyday problems." - CALLIE SMITH



ASSIGNMENT Grades 7-12, Band, Chorus, General Music, Debate Weldon STEM High School and Roanoke Valley Early College Weldon, NC

EXPERIENCE

10 years experience, 3 in current position Weldon City Schools – Weldon, NC Halifax County Public Schools – Halifax, VA Northampton County Schools – Jackson, NC

EDUCATION

Livingstone College, BA/Music: K-12 Education

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Weldon City Schools Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011 Weldon STEM High School Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011 Northeastern North Carolina School Leadership Program Participant

(Presently Enrolled)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Association of Educators North Carolina Music Educators Association MENC: The National Association for Music Education Tri-County Band Directors Association North Carolina High Stepping Band Directors Association

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated

Ferdinand Cooper NORTH CENTRAL REGION Weldon City Schools

I have often wondered over and over, "Am I a good teacher?" Then I start to think, "What makes a good teacher?" The more I go into my teaching career, the less I believe in theory, and the more I believe in practicality. I know that throughout the years I have made mistakes – but they have been my greatest discoveries. I know that teaching means putting yourself in the midst of a journey. This journey that may not always yield the results you desire, but teaches you to become a learner – just like your students.

I believe that teaching has lost the "personal" factor. That "personal" factor made me want to do the best I could as a kid because I did not want to disappoint my teachers. As a band director, I hold my students to high levels of accountability. I am extremely tough on them. They give me many hours of their lives because they share a love and passion for music like I do. Because of that, I feel that I have a responsibility to treat them as if they were my own. If they need someone to talk to, I listen. If they want me to come to their church to hear them sing, I go. If they need money for lunch, I give it to them. Many of the kids I teach need attention just as much as they need to know about whole notes and half notes. They come from broken homes, and may have parents who are addicted to drugs. Others experience abusive homes and relationships, and the inability to have basic necessities I sometimes take for granted. I do not create the world's greatest lesson plans. I am not a master of differentiated instruction. I may not even be the best teacher in my own school, but I am someone that cares. I care about each of these students as people. The reward I get is seeing them come back each day to learn, share their experiences, and grow as a person. That is something I will never grow tired of.

My personal teaching style changes every year, every month, and every day. As an effective teacher, you cannot be stagnant. There may be common pedagogies that work consistently, but with an everchanging society, you must adapt and change as well. I do believe that there must be discipline, respect, and a willingness from both teacher and student to learn. The classroom must be a place that everyone is comfortable. I love knowing on a day-to-day basis that I will be challenged. What I do not know, we learn together. What they do not know, I want them to learn. At the end of the day though I tell them this, "I am here to teach you about music. Believe it or not, I guarantee you will learn more about life." I am certainly glad that both the teacher and student benefits from that philosophy.





Jacqueline Boyd Vance County Schools



Kimly M. Pace Franklin County Schools



Kim Wainwright Edgecombe County Schools



Marilyn S. Burgess-Thompson Northampton County Schools



Dakisha Nabulungi Perry Warren County Schools



Katie Wall Johnston County Schools



Chad Geary Roanoke Rapids City Schools



Elizabeth Plotkin Wake County Schools

Suzanne Weaver

Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools



Melissa Harris Halifax County Schools



Erin Robbins Granville County Schools



Gail Mahan Wilson County Schools



Takesha Trapp Durham Public Schools

"My personal teaching style changes every year, every month, and every day. As an effective teacher, you cannot be stagnant." – FERDINAND COOPER





ASSIGNMENT Grades 6-8, Music West Pine Middle School Moore County Schools

EXPERIENCE

12 years experience, 4th in current position Teacher, Moore County Schools, North Carolina Teacher, Alpine School District, Utah

- 2 years, TV Host, Ms. Marci's Window (children's show), North Carolina
- 4 years, Director, Sunshine Generation Children's Performing Group, Tennessee

EDUCATION

Brigham Young University, BS Elementary Education State of North Carolina, Music Education Licensure

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

National Board Certification, 2010 Moore County Schools Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011

- West Pine Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011
- Public Education Foundation Grant Recipient, 2010, 2008

Bright Ideas Grant Recipient, 2008

Moore County Schools Outstanding Arts Educator, 2003

Moore County Schools Teacher of the Year, 2002-2003

Pinehurst Elementary Teacher of the Year, 2002-2003

Orem Elementary Golden Apple Award, 1995

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Professional Educators of North Carolina National Association of Music Education North Carolina Music Educators Association American Orff-Schulwerk Association

Marci Houseman SANDHILLS/SOUTH CENTRAL REGION Moore County Schools

I did not plan on becoming a teacher when I entered college. I started my studies as a Chemistry major with plans on becoming an Optometrist. Fortunately, a series of experiences in college redirected my path, and I found my true calling as an educator. The poet Robert Frost may have likened this path to *a road less traveled*.

Our experiences have a transforming effect on us. In my educational journey, the most transforming experience for me has been initiating the Discipline, Respect and Unity through Music (D.R.U.M). program at West Pine Middle School. I target at-risk students with social or behavior issues, but welcome all students to join the class. Striving to develop character traits as I teach my curriculum, at-risk students have shown great improvement in self-control, attitude and attendance. Many of my students comment that D.R.U.M. is their favorite part of the day. In some cases, it is what inspires them to come to school. I am grateful for the role drumming has played in not simply learning the curriculum, but fostering self-confidence and compassion.

Using African drums as "instruments" of global awareness, I invite my students to step outside themselves and connect to cultures on the other side of the world. As students make these connections, I literally witness walls come tumbling down. Students who in the past may have only seen each other's differences now seek to develop unity of sound and purpose. As an extension of this idea, West Pine Middle School students have been involved in a partnership I created with the humanitarian organization Africa Heartwood Project. Through this partnership, our school community has raised money to fund a clean water project as well as assist a refugee orphan home. All of our lives have been transformed as a result of these experiences.

When I consider the rewards of teaching, my list is endless, but the following certainly make the top of the list: A middle school student who is struggling to find an identity learns to exercise self-control and work with others. A student who is struggling to determine a course for his life finds greater purpose through the connections music allows him to make to the world around him. A student who is struggling with a variety of emotions finds success and confidence in my classroom and an ability to appropriately recognize others' successes. A student who previously had little motivation to achieve becomes determined to push beyond what she thought possible. What a privilege it is to be a witness to lives transformed.

The road I have traveled thus far in education has certainly been the one "less traveled," and it has certainly "made all the difference". I recognize that the experiences I have had along this road have transformed me. I look forward to the experiences that lie ahead on this road.

REGION 4 SANDHILLS/SOUTH CENTRAL



Michelle Cline Harnett County Schools



Leslie Knauss Scotland County Schools



Sylvia Cox Columbus County Schools



Sherry Lewis Bladen County Schools



Jessica Hamilton Lee County Schools



Christy Mabe Richmond County Schools



Sherry Harrell Robeson County Schools



Denise E. Nosbisch Cumberland County Schools



Lu Ann Johnston Whiteville City Schools



Takeisha Parker-Wilson Hoke County Schools



Earle S. Poole Montgomery County Schools

"I invite my students to step outside themselves and connect to cultures on the other side of the world. As students make these connections, I literally witness walls come tumbling down."

- MARCI HOUSEMAN



ASSIGNMENT Grades 6-8, EC Inclusion Graham Middle School, Graham, NC Alamance Burlington School System

EXPERIENCE

9 Years, 1 year in current position Teacher, Alamance-Burlington School System

EDUCATION

Elon University, Masters of Education, Special Education North Carolina Central University, North Carolina Teacher Certification North Carolina Central University, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Alamance-Burlington School District Teacher of the Year, 2010 – 2011

Graham Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2010 – 2011

Graham Middle School Outstanding Teacher Award, 2008

Gold's Gym Teacher of the Month Award, 2007 "The Best All Around" Award for teaching, 2006

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Education Association North Carolina Association of Educators Alamance-Burlington Association of Educators

Burlington Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Tyronna Hooker PIEDMONT-TRIAD/CENTRAL REGION Alamance-Burlington Schools

I think that my perspective on education is different because most teachers that I have met excelled in education as a child, but as a student, I myself struggled in the classroom. My mother was a teenage mother who was unprepared to raise children. Eventually, I was adopted by my grandmother who, although she had never graduated high school, became an advocate for my success in school. She would ask my teachers if they were "Believers" – did they believe that a child who didn't fit the traditional mold could succeed. As a result, I had teachers who went the extra mile on my behalf, who created an environment which allowed me to be a risk-taker. This allowed me to be the first person on my mother's side to graduate high school and then college.

My original career goals did not involve teaching. I made a very conscious decision to enter the wonderful, ever-changing field of education after years of employment in the criminal justice system and employment with the Department of Social Services. During a heart-to-heart conversation with one particular young man, he shared with me that other than being incarcerated, the only other place he feared was a classroom. At that moment, my heart called me to become an educator and my vow was to be an outstanding teacher – one that students would remember.

I entered the teaching profession with zero educational training. It was definitely a "sink or swim" situation. My memories about classrooms including straight rows, individual textbooks, and quiet classes had to be erased. I became an advocate for student-centered, inquiry-based learning and classrooms that foster excellence for all learners. In fact, I have grown to understand the students are volunteers, and I am charged with creating a learning environment that authentically engages them and helps them become globally competitive. I have transitioned from an uninformed lateral entry teacher in the back of the faculty meeting into a knowledgeable staff development facilitator before my peers.

Each morning I enter my school building with the determination to achieve the impossible! I seek opportunities to motivate, engage and provoke critical thinking for students, colleagues, and myself. Each setback in my career has been a setup for a comeback. That is also the philosophy that I teach my students.

I recently ran a 5K race with my school's running club as a guide for a student who is visually impaired. She summed up what it means to be a teacher just before the race began. She grabbed my arm and candidly stated, "Mrs. Hooker, I don't know where I am going but I trust that you will take me to the right place."

REGION 5 PIEDMONT-TRIAD/CENTRAL



Takiyah Baptist Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools



Marcus Herman-Giddens Chatham County Schools



Paul Piatkowski Davidson County Schools



Janet Burgess Randolph County Schools



Heather King Winston-Salem/Forsyth



Angela Wilson Rockingham County Schools



Ira Cumpton, Jr. Thomasville City Schools



Gina Lunsford Person County Schools



Wayne Wilson Orange County Schools



Jean Goss Guilford County Schools



Kristen McCloskey Asheboro City Schools



Debra Hennelly Stokes County Schools



Robert L. Mise Caswell County Schools

"I have grown to understand the students are volunteers, and I am charged with creating a learning environment that authentically engages them..." **-TYRONNA HOOKER**



ASSIGNMENT Grade 5 Rhyne Elementary School Gaston County Schools

EXPERIENCE

Gaston County Schools Rhyne Elementary School 2005-Present Kindergarten 2005-2009 Fifth Grade 2009-Present

EDUCATION

- Gardner Webb University, Charlotte, NC School Administration License Add-On, 2010-Present
- Pfeiffer University, Charlotte, NC Masters of Science in Elementary Education, 2005-2008
- Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, 2001-2005

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Southwestern Region Teacher of the Year, 2011 Gaston County Teacher of the Year, 2010 Rhyne Elementary School Teacher of the Year, 2009-2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society Delta Epsilon Sigma Scholastic Honor Society Delta Tau Delta Fraternity

Thomas Plecnik SOUTHWEST REGION Gaston County Schools

When I reflect on the many factors that influenced me to become an educator, I realize what a great privilege it is to have such a variety from which to choose. From the moment I was born, I was exposed to an environment that respected and revered all aspects of the processes of teaching and learning. Both of my parents were teachers, my father is a professor at Belmont Abbey College and my mother taught students who were blind and deaf before my six siblings and I were born. She sacrificed her career in this field to devote her life to giving us the best possible early education anyone could provide through home-schooling. She spent every waking moment filling us with a love of learning and the skills necessary to pursue it. Her particular focus on early literacy skills provided me with the ability to achieve any academic goal I desired to set.

During my time in college, it was my father's instruction in the areas of logic and ethics that had a particular impact on forming both my philosophy of education and the importance of being an educated individual. As a result of their excellent instruction, I was able to graduate from Belmont Abbey College at the age of eighteen with a degree in Elementary Education and set out on my own journey of inspiring young learners through the practice of teaching.

I wholeheartedly believe that the teaching profession is one of the most critical vocations in all of society. Quite literally teachers are entrusted with both the futures of the students we teach and the future of all society. Plato said, *"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life."* This quote demonstrates that teachers play a deciding role in forming the academic, social, emotional, and character attributes of tomorrow's world. Teachers are charged with the daunting and exhilarating challenge of discovering each student's potentialities and guiding them into actualities. At this very moment in classrooms across this state, there are students capable of equaling and surpassing the achievements of the world's greatest scholars, musicians, scientists, philosophers, activists, and athletes. Educators will determine if these aptitudes will lie unknown and unused or if they will develop into skills that will alter all of our futures for the better. I set out each day with this thought in my mind, and I rise to its challenge.

I believe that my philosophy of education is reflected in the way that I teach every day. My expectations for my students are simple; be better today than you were yesterday and have plans for how you will become better tomorrow. I strive to inspire in them a desire to be a lifelong learner, to learn for the intrinsic joy of becoming better, and to guide them to be responsible for their own learning. I attempt to teach and guide with such enthusiasm and energy that my students will be compelled to learn and discover with equal fervor.





Sarah Dyvig Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools

Jane Morton

Lincoln County Schools



Yachannah Galloway Kannapolis City Schools



Daniel Norwood Anson County Schools



Matt Harris Cleveland County Schools



Sarah "Beth" Jewell Cabarrus County Schools



Cindy Jones Stanly County Schools



Andrew Rosene Union County Schools

"I attempt to teach and guide with such enthusiasm and energy that my students will be compelled to learn and discover with equal fervor." –THOMAS PLECNIK



ASSIGNMENT

Grades 9-12, Geometry, Honors Discrete Math, and AP Statistics Fred T. Foard High School Catawba County Schools

EXPERIENCE

14 years, 4 in current position Teacher, Fred T. Foard High School, 2007-2011 Teacher, Hickory High School, 1997-2007

EDUCATION

Appalachian State University, M.A. in Mathematics Education Lenoir-Rhyne College, B.A. in Mathematics Education

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

- Northwest NC Regional Teacher of the Year, 2011-2012
- Catawba County Schools Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011
- Fred T. Foard High School Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011
- Corning Cable Systems Excellence in Math Teaching Award, 2007
- NCCTM: Hickory Public Schools Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher, 2007
- NCCTM: Hickory Public Schools Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher, 2002
- National Board Certification (AYA Mathematics), 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Professional Educators of North Carolina Teachers Teaching With Technology (T-Cubed) – Regional Trainer

Andy Blevins NORTHWEST REGION Catawba County Schools

The main factor that influenced me to become a teacher was the opportunity to interact with students and to impact them positively. I was raised in a rural community where some students took education for granted. My parents stressed to me that education is a privilege. They expected me to just do the best I could in an honest manner. As I thought and prayed about my career decision, education became a calling. I remember the teachers that impacted my education, and I have seen firsthand the power wielded by a caring teacher.

My philosophy of teaching is based on three principles. First, all students can learn. All students may not be able to learn astrophysics, but all students can learn and be successful in the classroom. Second, students learn in more ways than I know how to teach. This fuels my efforts to stay abreast of the newest technology and research about education. Third, the best teachers are the best learners. I am diligent in applying new information effectively in the classroom.

I have sought opportunities to lead training sessions at various workshops and conferences as a T³ Regional Trainer through Texas Instruments. Through completion of my master's degree, I learned about various types of technology including hands-on data collection, graphing calculators, TI-Nspires, and wireless response systems that could supplement my teaching. I implemented these into my classroom and saw an immediate increase in students' interest and performance. I did some research that provided quantitative verification to what I knew was greatly affecting my classroom in a positive way. Students saw the math they were learning as more applicable to their lives and felt a greater confidence using the technology. I love sharing this information with others, as teaching should never become a competition between instructors. Rather, I like knowing that students receive benefit as teachers become equipped with knowledge and new skills.

I strive to help students overcome feelings of self doubt and anxiety. Since mathematics can be intimidating to many, I work to create a classroom where it is okay to be wrong. I also show students the true utility of mathematics because an understanding of how math is really used in our society is important. It is an honor to have students come back and visit to tell me the impact I made on them. Sometimes they are students that I would not have known were affected. These are moments that keep me motivated as I strive to meet the needs of all the students I serve.

I also enjoy involvement with a college-career group at my church. I extend my classroom teaching to include teaching on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. I have met interesting people and helped meet needs through mission trips not only locally, but also in Alaska, Honduras, and Venezuela. I have been able to share these lifechanging experiences with my wife of eleven years. Through my family and my career, God has blessed me richly, far beyond what I deserve.





Karen Auton Burke County Schools



Margaret Langford Hickory City Schools



Cheryl Powell Alleghany County Schools



Julie Stolze Rowan-Salisbury Schools



Mary Beth Bumgarner Alexander County Schools



Marcy Marion Mount Airy City Schools



Dee Raby Avery County Schools



Amy Wagoner Elkin City Schools



Pamela Bumgarner Iredell-Statesville Schools



Katie McCrary Surry County Schools



Travis Richardson Ashe County Schools

Mary Kent Whitaker

Watauga County Schools



Maureen Fitzsimmons Mooresville City Schools

Kathryn Murchison

Wilkes County Schools

J. Lowell Rogers

Caldwell County Schools



Jon Huggins Yadkin County Schools



Kelly Myers Davie County Schools



Donna Schronce Newton-Conover City Schools

"The best teachers are the best learners. I am diligent in applying new information effectively in the classroom."

- ANDY BLEVINS





ASSIGNMENT

Grade 10, World Studies, English Buncombe County Early College Buncombe County Public Schools

EXPERIENCE

- 12 Years, 5 Years in Current Role English Teacher, English Department Chair, Enka High School, Enka, NC
- English Teacher, Farmington High School, Farmington, NM
- Counselor/Teacher, Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Hendersonville, NC

EDUCATION

University of New Mexico, Post BA Licensure – Secondary English (grades 7-12) St. Michael's College, BA, English

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

NC Western Region Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011 Buncombe County Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011 Erwin District Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011 Buncombe County Early College Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011

National Board Certification, 2010 National Society of High School Scholars –

Nobel Educator of Distinction, 2009, 2010 Graduate of Leadership Asheville, 2004 Enka District Teacher of the Year, 2003-2004 Enka High School Teacher of the Year, 2003-2004 Mountain Athletic Conference Soccer Co-Coach of the Year, 2004

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

NCAE National Board Certification Group, 2010-Present

National Writing Project, 2008-Present NC New Schools Project, 2006-Present

Buncombe County Association of Educators, 1999-Present; Associate Representative, 2006-2009

NC Association of Educators, 1999-Present Project Based Learning Peer Instructor, 2006-2008

Eric Grant WESTERN REGION *Buncombe County Schools*

I had an incredible high school experience. I attended Newark Academy in Livingston, NJ, a private school where I received more individualized, focused instruction than I would in college or beyond. But this felt unfair to me; I had done nothing more than agree to go there. Realizing this, I decided I wanted to teach public education because I felt that all students were entitled to the education I had. I felt, and still feel, driven to provide this.

After earning my Bachelor's Degree in English, I moved into the wilderness as a Counselor/Teacher for troubled youth with Eckerd Youth Alternatives in Hendersonville, NC. This job taught me the power of education, in particular, of reading and writing in transforming lives. My move back to civilization took me to a comprehensive public high school so that I could understand the system and the standards; yet, I always intended to teach in a non-traditional school. Teaching at Buncombe County Early College, a non-traditional school, has helped me come closer to the goal I established while in high school. With smaller classes, integrated subjects, and a constant focus on best practices, we are able to provide similar instruction in a public school setting that I was afforded as a private high school student.

My philosophy of teaching is that learning must be an engaging and interactive process. The walls of my classroom and the halls outside are covered with students' artistic responses to literature. By incorporating diverse products, I have discovered that students who do not experience success on more traditional assignments are not only more successful on these, but that it builds their confidence to succeed on other language arts work.

Students collaborate with each other and their families in the learning process. Beyond frequent small group projects and Paideia seminar discussions, students peer edit and blog with each other and they partner with their parents on goal setting and goal evaluation. Students collaborate with their teachers. I regularly seek and receive feedback from students about what aspects of my instruction have been helpful in their learning. Engaging them in the evaluative process has been beneficial for all of us. After special needs students reported that reading their work to me aloud and scoring it together on a rubric was particularly helpful, I applied that strategy to all of my students.

Lastly, I recognize that instruction in the classroom is critical to developing the necessary basic skills within disciplines, but that its application must be cross-curricular and have real-world application for full value. For example, my students graph data and evaluate biological impacts of global issues in preparing presentations for their World Studies culminating projects.

Facilitating an engaging and interactive learning environment is critical to student success. It is also critical to keep my experience as a teacher fresh and interesting. In addition, the proper atmosphere helps to ensure that all children have powerful learning experiences.





Emily Awtrey Macon County Schools



Teresa Cook Haywood County Schools



Linda Herbert Polk County Schools



Stephen Bias Cherokee County Schools



Jessica Ferguson McDowell County Schools

Michelle Perkins Lord

Mitchell County Schools



Erica Bohnsack Rutherford County Schools



Vyanne C. Fisher



Maureen McClure Clay County Schools



Lisa Bruggeman Asheville City Schools



Neil Hawken Swain County Schools



Cheryl Morgan Graham County Schools



Jay Case Transylvania County Schools



Wanda Hensley Yancey County Schools



Jason Rhodes Henderson County Schools



Robert Zimmerman Madison County Schools

"I regularly seek and receive feedback from students about what aspects of my instruction have been helpful in their learning." - ERIC GRANT



ASSIGNMENT Grade 4, Math and Science, 504 Coordinator Chatham Charter School Siler City, NC

EXPERIENCE

11 years, 8 years in current position
Teacher, Chatham Charter School North Carolina
Teacher, Paideia Academy, North Carolina
Teacher, Bethany Christian School, Baker, Louisiana

Teacher, Church of Faith Academy, Slidell, Louisiana

EDUCATION

Southeastern Louisiana University BA in Social Studies Education

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Charter School Teacher of the Year, 2011-2012 Chatham Charter Teacher of the Year, 2010-2011

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 2004-present

Regina Johnston CHARTER SCHOOLS *Chatham Charter School*

Several factors influenced me to become a teacher. One factor was I love working with kids. At age 14, I started working with young children at a daycare center and before that I was the busy babysitter. I felt at my best when I was surrounded by children. Another factor was my history as a student. As a young girl, I had a difficult time in school. In the fourth grade I was in a severe car accident and I became even more erratic in my efforts at school. I forgot assignments, was unorganized and frequently daydreamed. In fifth grade I had Mrs. Martin. She made me feel successful and like I could be a great student. While I was in school, I would remember Mrs. Martin and the feeling that with a little effort I could have great success. Throughout the years, I continued to have great teachers who influenced me. They had a drive to help their students become successful adults. The desire for me to help young people became strong and continues to this day.

I cannot speak of my desire to teach without mentioning my wonderful parents. My mother noticed my "knack" with kids and encouraged me to pursue something along those lines. My dad was always saying that learning is for life. Both of my parents modeled the life of learning. My mother earned her realtor license while I was in college. My dad changed careers in his thirties and he began guitar lessons in his sixties.

In my first few years of teaching, I looked for ways to make learning interesting. I would invent games of all sorts. Then the songs arrived. As I worked to motivate middle school students, I would teach the information in song form to the students. Students came alive as we sang. I continued this when I changed over to 4th grade. We are now in the process of creating a video where the children are singing and acting out how to use the song. The songs are short but very useful to the memorization of quick facts. Former students tell me that they still sing the songs in their heads when they get "stuck" with something.

I believe in balance in a classroom. Students must learn to use pencil and paper to solve problems but many need the balance of hands on activities for understanding. I also use technology in the classroom to promote interest, and then I have students work in small groups to promote understanding. I balance group work with independent thinking time to promote mastery. I am available for afterschool tutoring for those who are still struggling with concepts and need either one-on-one time or more practice with me.

We have all heard the saying "give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish and he will eat for life." Well, I liken that to learning. Give a child information, and he may know it for a test. Teach a child the joy of learning and he will learn for life.

CHARTER SCHOOLS



Ona Armstrong Evergreen Community Charter School



Carla Fisher Columbus Charter School



Joyce Sugg Roxboro Community School



Stephanie Cook Bethel Hill Charter School



Shelby Gorski Charter Day School



Pamala Tew East Wake Academy



Robin Ward Dassler Gray Stone Day School



Cindy Hunt ArtSpace Charter School



Cathy Thornburg Lincoln Charter



Sue Davis Socrates Academy



Pratibha Lakhani Sallie B Howard School for the Arts and Education



Leigh Ann Williams Lake Norman Charter School



Amy Daw Voyager Academy



John McAuley Union Academy

"Give a child information, and he may know it for a test. Teach a child the joy of learning, and he will learn for life." – REGINA JOHNSTON

NCTEACHERS OF THE YEAR 1970-2010

- JENNIFER J. FACCIOLINI, Sampson County Schools, 2010 Social Studies, high school 2009 JESSICA GARNER, Union County Public Schools, Spanish, high school CINDI RIGSBEE, Orange County Schools, 2008 Reading, middle school, "NATIONAL FINALIST" JAMES BELL, Edenton-Chowan Public Schools, 2007 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" CARMEN WILSON, Ashe County Schools, 2001 Mathematics, high school 2000 LAURA BILBRO-BERRY, Beaufort County Schools, 2nd grade 1999 KIMBERLY H. HUGHES, Wake County Schools, Kindergarten REBECCA O. HOYLE, Onslow County Schools, 1998 Music, grades K-5 JULIAN L. COGGINS, JR., Cabarrus County Schools, 1997 Science, high school RICHARD SCOTT GRIFFIN, Gaston County Schools, 1996 5th grade VERNESTINE KENT TAYLOR, Wilson County 1995 Schools, Mathematics, high school 1994 SANDRA C. WELLS, Asheville City Schools, (Buncombe Co.), Team Teacher, 1st & 4th grades SARAH M. PRATT, McDowell County Schools, 1993 English/Social Studies, high school, "NATIONAL HALL OF FAME WINNER" 1992 DIXIE F. ABERNATHY, Gaston County Schools, Science, junior high school ANNIE PEGRAM, Durham City Schools, 1991 (Durham Co.), 1st grade LOUIS GOTLIEB, Granville County Schools, 1990 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"**