North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Celebrating North Carolina Educators: A Showcase of Excellence

The Umstead Hotel, Cary, NC
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017

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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:

**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.

**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.

**GO GLOBAL NC** – Go Global NC helps deliver the leadership and global competence needed to help our state thrive in this complex, dynamic world. We empower North Carolinians with the skills, understanding, connection, and knowledge to succeed in a global community. Go Global NC is proud to be a part of the world-class, 17-campus University of North Carolina system.

**NC STATE ATHLETICS** – The mission of the NC State University Department of Athletics is to prepare student-athletes to compete at the highest level and to inspire them to be leaders now and for the future by providing the best environment to achieve their athletic, academic, and personal aspirations as well as providing support for the professional development of our coaches and staff, all within the role of the greater institutional relationships to the University.

**Special Acknowledgements**
Welcome and Greetings

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

A.L. COLLINS • Vice-Chairman, State Board of Education

Invocation

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

Luncheon

Remarks

THE HONORABLE DAN FOREST, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA

ALFRED MAYS • Program Officer, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

DR. RICK VAN SANT • Executive Director, Go Global NC

JOSH BURKE • Field Account Executive Southeast Region Public Sector, Lenovo

DERECK WHITTEMBURG • Associate Athletic Director for Community Relations
and Student Support, NC State Athletics

BOBBIE J. CAVNAR • 2016 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Recognition of Regional Candidates

DR. MARIA PITRE-MARTIN • Chief Academic and Digital Learning Officer
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Special Remarks

THE HONORABLE ROY A. COOPER III, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA

Announcement of 2017 Burroughs Wellcome Fund
North Carolina Teacher of the Year

MARK JOHNSON • North Carolina Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Closing and Adjournment

DR. YVETTE STEWART-MACKEY • 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 outstanding teachers at the school, local, regional, and state levels. First, individuals are chosen to represent their respective schools as Teacher of the Year, then they advance to compete at the district level. Similarly, individual charter schools nominate Teachers of the Year who participate in a selection process facilitated by the Office of Charter Schools. 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 eight Regional Teachers of the Year as a finalist for state Teacher 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.

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.

**2017 Teacher of the Year State Selection Committee**

Patricia Foust • Retired Assistant Superintendent • Randolph County Schools
Dr. Angela Hinson Quick • Senior Education Researcher/Director School Services • RTI International
Mark Jewell • President • North Carolina Association of Educators
JoAnn Norris • Former Executive Director • Public School Forum
Dr. Yvette Stewart-Mackey, Ex Officio Member • Assistant Director • Educator Effectiveness • North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Amy Parker
Northeast Region Teacher of the Year
Hertford Grammar | Perquimans County Schools

- 5th Grade Teacher, Math and Social Studies
- 29 years teaching experience
- East Carolina University – MA
- Trevecca Nazarene University – BS
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Mentor Teacher
- Student Teacher Supervisor, Elizabeth City State University

Northeast Region Winners

Katherine Alligood
Beaufort County Early College High
Beaufort County Schools

Margaret Ambrose
Creswell Elementary
Washington County Schools

Iben Bogues
T. S. Cooper Elementary
Gates County Schools

LaDonna Booker
Weldon Middle
Weldon City Schools

Catina Byrum
White Oak Elementary
Edenton-Chowan Schools

Sandra Carawan
Mattamuskeet Early College High
Hyde County Schools

Geannine Chlomoudis
Willis Hare Elementary
Northampton County Schools

Laura Daniels
Nags Head Elementary
Dare County Schools

Rachel Foy
Camden Intermediate
Camden County Schools

Jennifer James
Northeastern High
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

Jeanne Johnson
Belmont Elementary
Roanoke Rapids Graded School District

Shauna Jones
Southeast Halifax High
Halifax County Schools

Erin Kessel
Creekside Elementary
Pitt County Schools

Christi Rogerson
Northeast Regional School
of Biotechnology & Agriscience

Michale Siverio
Bearfield Primary
Hertford County Public Schools

Latonya Square
Colerain Elementary
Bertie County Schools

Jaye Weeks-Hughes
South Creek High
Martin County Schools
Lisa Godwin
Southeast Region Teacher of the Year
Dixon Elementary | Onslow County Schools

- Kindergarten Teacher
- 19 years teaching experience
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill – MSA
- St. Andrews Presbyterian College – BA
- Member, Onslow County Schools Superintendent’s Advisory Committee
- Member, Every Student Succeeds Act Committee
- Mentor Teacher

Southeast Region Winners

Christy Bishop
Rocky Point Elementary
Pender County Schools

Jennifer Cochran
Rosewood High
Wayne County Public Schools

Natalie Cook
Snow Hill Primary
Greene County Schools

Elizabeth Harwick
Fred A. Anderson Elementary
Pamlico County Schools

Brittany Hellriegel
Croatan High
Carteret County Public School System

Airiel Hudson
Maysville Elementary
Jones County Schools

Michelle Sharpe
Shallotte Middle
Brunswick County Schools

Alicia Stanley
Northwest Elementary
Lenoir County Schools

Daphne Vann
Kenansville Elementary
Duplin County Schools

Christopher Walters
Parsley Elementary
New Hanover County Schools

Christy Wilson
Ben D. Quinn Elementary
Craven County Schools
Miles Macleod
North Central Region Teacher of the Year
Heritage High | Wake County Public School System

- 9-12 Teacher, English and Global Studies
- 8 years teaching experience
- Salisbury University – BA
- Coach, Heritage High Speech and Debate Team
- Summer Institute Presenter, *Argumentation in the English Classroom, Moving Toward 21st Century Assessment*
- Creator, The English Academy, to assist traditionally struggling English students

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North Central Region Winners

**Shelley Armour**
Southwest Edgecombe High
Edgecombe County Schools

**Alexis Benitez**
Mary Potter Middle
Granville County Public Schools

**Justine Daniel**
Githens Middle
Durham Public Schools

**Danielle Greene**
Helena Elementary
Person County Schools

**Jessica Grinnell**
Grey Culbreth Middle
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

**Laura Hines**
Corinth-Holders Elementary
Johnston County Schools

**Devin Hocutt**
Harnett Central High
Harnett County Schools

**Brandon Morehouse**
Deep River Elementary
Lee County Schools

**Wendi Pillars**
Jordan-Matthews High
Chatham County Schools

**Claire Roehl**
Edward Best Elementary
Franklin County Schools

**Katherine Shealy**
Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf
Department of Public Instruction

**Tomeka Sidberry**
South Warren Elementary
Warren County Schools

**Linwood Swann**
Eaton Johnson Middle
Vance County Schools

**Renny Taylor**
Nash Central High
Nash Rocky Mount Schools

**Betti Hope Whitley**
Stantonsburg Elementary
Wilson County Schools

**Keith Yow**
Cedar Ridge High
Orange County Schools
Juandalynn Ray
Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year
Sampson Middle | Clinton City Schools

- 6-7 Teacher, English Language Arts
- 17 years teaching experience
- Grand Canyon University – MA
- Elon University – BA
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Lead Mentor
- Department Chair
- School Improvement Chair

Sandhills Region Winners

Kelly Cheek
Scotland High
Scotland County Schools

Samuel Dowels
Hoke County High
Hoke County Schools

James Goins, III
St. Pauls High
Public Schools of Robeson County

Todd McCabe
John Griffin Middle
Cumberland County Schools

Katherine McLam
Whiteville Primary
Whiteville City Schools

Ann Petersen
Pinecrest High
Moore County Schools

Jimmy Price
Nakina Middle/Williams Township
Columbus County Schools

Brent Rivenbark
Hobbtton Elementary
Sampson County Schools

Lakresha Sibley
Hamlet Middle
Richmond County Schools

Crystal Thomas
Candor Elementary
Montgomery County Schools

Cheryl West
East Bladen High
Bladen County Schools
Adam Reeder
Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year
Asheboro High | Asheboro City Schools

- 9-12 Teacher, Mathematics
- 17 years teaching experience
- Appalachian State University – MA
- North Carolina State University – BS
- National Board Certified Teacher
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Facilitator, math professional development district-wide
- Department Chair

Piedmont-Triad Region Winners

Brooke Barham
Trindale Elementary
Randolph County School System

Cary Lee Cumbo
Oakwood Elementary
Caswell County Schools

Allyson Edwards
Morehead High
Rockingham County Schools

Alicia Gentry
Elkin Elementary
Elkin City Schools

Krista Hannah
Ferndale Middle
Guilford County Schools

Jordan Hohm
Broadview Middle
Alamance-Burlington School System

Jordan Hohm
Broadview Middle
Alamance-Burlington School System

Jacob Hoots
Forbush High
Yadkin County Schools

Mason Midkiff
Surry Central High
Surry County Schools

Juan Ortiz
Thomasville Primary
Thomasville City Schools

Aysha Sayrd Price
Stokes Early College High
Stokes County Schools

Kelli Rapp
Friedberg Elementary
Davidson County Schools

Amanda Robertson
J.J Jones Intermediate
Mount Airy City Schools

Fernando Solano Valverde
South Lexington
Lexington City Schools

Kolleen Sullivan
Shady Grove Elementary
Davie County Schools

Allison Weavil
East Forsyth High
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

Adam Reeder
Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year
Asheboro High | Asheboro City Schools

- 9-12 Teacher, Mathematics
- 17 years teaching experience
- Appalachian State University – MA
- North Carolina State University – BS
- National Board Certified Teacher
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Facilitator, math professional development district-wide
- Department Chair
Anthony Johnson, Jr.
Southwest Region Teacher of the Year
Isenberg Elementary | Rowan-Salisbury Schools

- 4-5 Teacher, Science and Social Studies
- 14 years teaching experience
- Livingstone College – BA
- Winner, 2017 Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Award
- TED-Ed Innovative Educator, 2016
- Apple Distinguished Educator
- Author (2017), How PBL Transforms the Classroom into the “Real World”

Southwest Region Winners

Brittany Banks
Shady Brook Elementary
Kannapolis City Schools

Elizabeth Crosby
McAdenville Elementary
Gaston County Schools

Monica Davis
Anson High
Anson County Schools

Astrid Emily Francis
W.M. Irvin Elementary
Cabarrus County Schools

Samantha Harris
N.B. Mills Elementary
Iredell-Statesville Schools

Lindsay Knippenberg
Mooresville High
Mooresville Graded School District

Shelley McConnell
Union Elementary
Lincoln County Schools

Carla McSwain
South Stanly High
Stanly County Schools

David Reed
Kings Mountain Intermediate
Cleveland County Schools

Jodi Robinson
Unionville Elementary
Union County Public Schools

Jordan Todd
Statesville Road Elementary
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Carrie Franklin
**Northwest Region Teacher of the Year**
Glenwood Elementary | McDowell County Schools

- K-2 Teacher
- 14 years teaching experience
- Appalachian State University – BS
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Trainer, Foundations of Reading; RTI
- Spanish Translator
- Member, Superintendent Council

### Northwest Region Winners

- **Peter Bobbe**
  Mountain Heritage High
  Yancey County Schools

- **Leigh Ann Dixon**
  Sparta Elementary
  Alleghany County Schools

- **Rhonda Franklin**
  Deyton Elementary
  Mitchell County Schools

- **Erica Greer**
  Jenkins Elementary
  Hickory Public Schools

- **Dr. Jodi Grubb**
  Ashe County Middle
  Ashe County Schools

- **Tracy Heape**
  Oak Hill Elementary
  Burke County Schools

- **Jennifer Jurney**
  Granite Falls Elementary
  Caldwell County Schools

- **Missy Lyons**
  Avery County High
  Avery County Schools

- **Belinda Marino**
  Moravian Falls Elementary
  Wilkes County Schools

- **Rodney Pyatte II**
  Saint Stephens Elementary
  Catawba County Schools

- **Meshia Russell**
  East Alexander Middle
  Alexander County Schools

- **Martha Trimble**
  Blowing Rock Elementary
  Watauga County Schools
Leslie Schoof
Western Region Teacher of the Year
Madison Early College High | Madison County Schools

- 9-12 Teacher, Biology and Physical Science
- 18 years teaching experience
- Western Carolina University – MA
- UNC-Asheville – BA
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow
- Student Teacher Supervisor, Mars Hill University
- Reviewer/Co-Author, science textbook published by MPS North America, LLC.

Western Region Winners

Elena Barnwell
Hendersonville Elementary
Henderson County Public Schools

Catherine Belair
Valley Springs Middle
Buncombe County Schools

Kristi Clark
Pisgah Forest Elementary
Transylvania County Schools

Pauletta Clark
Iotla Valley Elementary
Macon County Schools

Jon Ezell
Polk County High
Polk County Schools

Jennifer Gibson
Hayesville High
Clay County Schools

Cindy Mathews
Swain Middle
Swain County Schools

Shanna Mustin
Andrews High
Cherokee County Schools

Jeffrey Pope
Smoky Mountain High
Jackson County Public Schools

Nanette Renegar
Clyde Elementary
Haywood County Schools

Ariel Robinson
School of Inquiry & Life Sciences
Asheville City Schools

Joy VanDyke
Forest City-Dunbar Elementary
Rutherford County Schools

Crystal White
Robbinsville High
Graham County Schools
Deborah Brown
Charter Schools Teacher of the Year
Research Triangle High | Research Triangle Park, NC

- 9-12 Teacher, English Language Arts
- 29 years teaching experience
- Syracuse University – MA
- State University of NY at Oneonta – BS
- National Board Certified Teacher
- Governor’s Teacher Network, *The Efficacy of Using a Flipped Model in the High School Language Arts Classroom*

Charter School Winners

Jason Carter
Evergreen Community Charter

Ashley Cole
Bethel Hill Charter

Tara Culbertson
Piedmont Classical High

Margaret Dalpe
Union Academy Charter

Heather Davenport
Bear Grass Charter

Gerard Falls
The Capitol Encore Academy

Lorraine Fischer
Socrates Academy

Stephanie Fisher
Charter Day

Lorraine Fortkort
Lincoln Charter

Christian Gloade
Voyager Academy

Allison Goldman
Maureen Joy Charter

Tracy Holcombe
Falls Lake Academy

Matthew Hubacher
Pine Lake Preparatory

Dede Keasler
ArtSpace Charter

Karri Melton
Clover Garden

Tracy Miller
Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy

Meridith Mitchell
IC Imagine

Kristi Nemec
Mountain Island Charter

Rob Orrill
American Renaissance

Carrie Ragland
Neuse Charter

Debra Rook
Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies

Kara Root
Chatham Charter

Taro Shigenobu
Henderson Collegiate Middle

Jody Smith
Uwharrie Charter Academy

Allyson Sutton
East Wake Academy

Stacey Whitlow
Roxboro Community
2016 North Carolina Regional Teachers of the Year

Bobbie J. Cavnar
2016 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year
Southwest • Region 6
South Point High • Gaston County Schools

Marie Smith
Northeast Region
Northampton County Schools

Katie Snyder
Southeast Region
New Hanover County Schools

Margaret C. McNeill
North Central Region
Harnett County Schools

Olivia W. Hall
Sandhills Region
Sampson County Schools

Kevin Scharen
Piedmont-Triad Region
Alamance-Burlington School System

Leah Hayes
Northwest Region
Newton-Conover City Schools

Angel Ledbetter
Western Region
Rutherford County Schools

Brandon Brown
Charter Schools
Huntersville, NC
Past TOY Winners

2016  Bobbie J. Cavnar, Gaston County Schools, English and Journalism, High School

2015  Keana C. Triplett, Ashe County Schools, English, High School

2014  James E. Ford, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, World History, High School

2013  Karyn Collie Dickerson, Guilford County Schools, English, High School

2012  Darcy Grimes, Watauga County Schools, 3rd Grade

2011  Tyronna Hooker, Alamance-Burlington Schools, EC Inclusion, Grades 6-8

2010  Jennifer J. Facciolini, Sampson County Schools, Social Studies, High School

2009  Jessica Garner, Union County Public Schools, Spanish, High School

2008  Cindi Rigsbee, Orange County Schools, Reading, Middle School, “National Finalist”

2007  James Bell, Edenton-Chowan Public Schools, Language Arts, 8th Grade

2006  Diana Beasley, Hickory City Schools, Biology, High School

2005  Wendy Miller, Craven County Schools, Grades K-2

2004  Lizbeth Alfaro, Catawba County Schools, ESL, Grades K-6

2003  Allison Ormond, Rockingham County Schools, Language Arts/Social Studies, 7th Grade


2001  Carmen Wilson, Ashe County Schools, Mathematics, High School

2000  Laura Bilbro-Berry, Beaufort County Schools, 2nd Grade

1999  Kimberly H. Hughes, Wake County Schools, Kindergarten

1998  Rebecca O. Hoyle, Onslow County Schools, Music, Grades K-5

1997  Julian L. Coggins, Jr., Cabarrus County Schools, Science, High School

1996  Richard Scott Griffin, Gaston County Schools, 5th Grade

1995  VerneSetine Kent Taylor, Wilson County Schools, Mathematics, High School

1994  Sandra C. Wells, Asheville City Schools, (Buncombe Co.), Team Teacher, 1st & 4th Grades

1993  Sarah M. Pratt, McDowell County Schools, English/Social Studies, High School, “National Hall of Fame Winner”

1992  Dixie F. Abernathy, Gaston County Schools, Science, Junior High School

1991  Annie Pegram, Durham City Schools, (Durham Co.), 1st Grade

1990  Louis Gotlieb, Granville County Schools, Science, High School

1989  Sandra Davis Rogers, Rowan County Schools, 1st-3rd Grades

1988  Merv Sessions, Haywood County Schools, English, High School

1987  Cynthia B. Zeger-Ostherhus, Salisbury City Schools, (Rowan Co.), Mathematics, High School


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


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”


1971  Genella Allison, Hickory City Schools, (Catawba Co.), English/Journalism, High School

1970  John McFadden, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, 6th Grade, “National Finalist”
“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”

– JOY J. GOLLIVER –


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