

**WELLS FARGO North Carolina** 

# Principal of the Year

Celebrating North Carolina Educators:

A Showcase of Excellence



Friday, May 11, 2018 • The Umstead Hotel, Cary, NC

Follow us at #NCTOYPOY



## Special Acknowledgements

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



Wells Fargo is a nationwide, diversified, community-based financial services company that has 298 stores and more than 32,000 team members in North Carolina. Wells Fargo's vision is to satisfy all of its customers' financial needs and to help them succeed financially through its banking, commercial real estate lending, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial

finance products and services.

Wells Fargo is honored to sponsor the North Carolina Principal of the Year Program and to support educational initiatives in communities across the state. This past year in North Carolina, Wells Fargo provided more than \$20 million to nonprofits and schools. These contributions were channeled into areas such as neighborhood revitalization, education, mortgage counseling, small business development, human services and financial literacy. Team members volunteered more than 233,000 hours. Visit a Wells Fargo branch today or wellsfargo.com to learn more about the company.

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



Founded in 1965 by entrepreneur Bertil Hult, EF (Education First) is a privately-held company with 16 divisions that offer a range of educational programs from language training, educational travel, and academic degrees to cultural exchanges. With a mission to break down barriers in language,

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



Minneapolis-based Jostens provides products, programs and services that help people tell their stories, celebrate important traditions and recognize achievements. Jostens is the most trusted partner in helping customers to celebrate moments that matter. The company's products include

school yearbooks and other memory book products, scholastic products such as class rings and graduation products, and products for athletic champions and their fans. Jostens is a subsidiary of Visant Corporation, a marketing and publishing services enterprise servicing the school affinity, direct marketing, fragrance and cosmetics and personal care sampling and packaging, and educational and trade publishing segments.



No Kid Hungry North Carolina is working to break down the barriers that keep kids from healthy food. Our organization was formed in 2011 in partnership with state leaders and the national No Kid Hungry campaign, which is a program of the nonprofit Share Our Strength. In 2014, No Kid Hungry

NC became an initiative based at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. That's why No Kid Hungry NC is helping connect our state's almost 900,000 high-need public school students to effective but under-utilized federal nutrition programs such as school breakfast, summer meals, and afterschool meals. Learn more about nutrition's connection to academic success at NoKidHungryNC.org.



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

options in downtown Chapel Hill. This Chapel Hill/Carrboro hotel provides flexible meeting spaces, conference facilities, and banquet services for up to 200 people.

## Award Ceremony Agenda

#### **PRELUDE**

DR. CYNTHIA M. MARTIN • State Recognition Committee Chair, Educator Support Services

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

#### **WELCOME AND GREETINGS**

**DR. NANCY BARBOUR** • Director, Educator Support Services North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

ERIC C. DAVIS • Vice Chairman, State Board of Education

#### **INVOCATION**

DR. SONJA BROWN • National Board/Milken Coordinator, Educator Support Services

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

#### LUNCHEON

#### **REMARKS**

THE HONORABLE DAN FOREST • Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina

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

**CRAIG ROBERTS** • Sales Manager, Southeast Atlantic Region, Jostens

LOU ANNE CRUMPLER • State Director, No Kid Hungry NC

#### **REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP**

MARK JOHNSON • State Superintendent North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

JASON GRIFFIN • 2017 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

#### **VIDEO PRESENTATION**

#### **RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL CANDIDATES**

DR. MARIA PITRE-MARTIN • Deputy State Superintendent North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2018 WELLS FARGO NORTH CAROLINA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

JOANNA LECLAIR • Senior Vice President, Community Development Manager Carolinas Region, Community Relations, Wells Fargo

#### **CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT**

DR. CYNTHIA M. MARTIN • State Recognition Committee Chair, Educator Support Services

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

## State Selection

Selecting the individual who will represent North Carolina's principals and serve as a spokesperson for administrators and educators in our state is a most challenging task. Candidates must meet all program eligibility requirements and must be a practicing school administrator in a NC public school. After candidates are nominated at the district level, a selection process follows that includes a rigorous portfolio review and an interview at the regional level. One principal is selected to represent each of the eight regions of North Carolina. The Regional Principals of the Year continue by participating in the process at the state level. The State Selection Committee, chosen based on their dynamic public record in support of education, perform panel interviews in the selection of the North Carolina Principal of the Year. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education take pride in celebrating the most innovative and effective public school leaders in our state.



## 2018 STATE SELECTION COMMITTEE PATRICIA FOUST

Retired Assistant Superintendent, Randolph County Schools

#### DR. REBECCA GARLAND

Retired Deputy State Superintendent North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

#### DR. LAURELL C. MALONE

Coordinator, Office of Faculty Professional Development North Carolina Central University

#### **MARCO ZARATE**

President and Co-Founder, North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals

#### DR. CYNTHIA M. MARTIN

Ex-Officio – State Recognition Committee Chair, Educator Support Services
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



### Michelle White

## NORTHEAST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR DF Walker Elementary | Edenton-Chowan Schools

"I strongly believe in the power of creating a growth mindset throughout the school and giving every child personalized growth opportunities on a daily basis."

- 9 years of administrative experience
- Elizabeth City State University (M.Ed)
- East Carolina University (BA, M.Ed)
- NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice graduate
- PBIS Exemplar School
- Two consecutive years of Exceeded Academic Growth
- Edenton "Lock Up Hunger" Campaign Winner

#### → NORTHEAST DISTRICT WINNERS <

#### Steve Basnight

JP Knapp Early College Currituck County Schools

#### Angela Cross

South Creek Middle Martin County Schools

#### **Marcus Jones**

Aurelian Springs Institute of Global Learning Halifax County Schools

#### **Katina Jones-Waples**

Sheep-Harney Elementary
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

#### John Luciano

Manteo High Dare County Schools

#### **Jacqueline Maloney**

Pines Elementary Washington County Schools

#### **Danny McCaw**

Central Elementary Northampton County Schools

#### **Emily Pake**

Beaufort County Early College Beaufort County Schools

#### **Allison Setser**

H.B Sugg Elementary & Sam D. Bundy Elementary Pitt County Schools

#### **Andre Stewart**

Weldon Middle Weldon City Schools

#### Jeffrey White

Chaloner Middle Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools

#### **Jeremy Wright**

T.S. Cooper Elementary Gates County Schools



### **Tabari Wallace**

## SOUTHEAST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR West Craven High | Craven County Schools

"My self-reflection is on-going, and my focus changes in response to the demands and academic requirements of my students."

- 14 years of administrative experience
- East Carolina University (BS, MS, MSA, Doctoral Candidate)
- Learning Focused Trainer
- New Bern High School Hall of Fame
- Bully Free Principal of the Year
- Apple Teacher Certified
- 8th grade science scores grew from 27.6% to 79.5 % in two years

#### SOUTHEAST DISTRICT WINNERS <</p>

#### **Kellan Bryant**

Kinston High Lenoir County Public Schools

#### Walker Constantinesco

Town Creek Elementary Brunswick County Schools

#### **Timothy Foster**

Southwest High Onslow County Schools

#### Dawn Hunter

Comfort Elementary Jones County Public Schools

#### Dr. Mary Keel

Bridges School Carteret County Schools

#### Dr. Lauren Kefalonitis

Bradley Creek Elementary New Hanover County Schools

#### **Anthony Jones**

North Duplin Jr/Sr High Duplin County Schools

#### **Christopher Madden**

Pender High Pender County Schools

#### Rodney McNeill

Greene Early College High Greene County Schools

#### Youlonda Wynn

Brodgen Primary Wayne County Public Schools



#### Jonathan Enns

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Fuquay-Varina High | Wake County Public School System

"At the forefront of professional self-reflection is improving our capacity as leaders to positively impact teaching and learning and this is driven by the responsibility to never waiver from the big picture of educating children."

- 9 years of administrative experience
- NC State University (MSA)
- University of Windsor (BS)
- AP enrollment increased 130%
- Three consecutive years of Exceeded Academic Growth
- Awarded Dynamic Learning Spaces Grant
- Completed Bell Leadership Academy

#### NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT WINNERS <-</p>

#### **Patti Barnes**

North Elementary Person County Schools

#### Kristen Boyd

Aycock Elementary Vance County Schools

#### **Leslie Bryant**

Grady A. Brown Elementary Orange County Schools

#### Michael Fuga

Neal Magnet Middle Durham Public Schools

#### **Lois Glass**

Stocks Elementary Edgecombe County Public Schools

#### **Jacqueline Harris**

Granville Early College High Granville County Public Schools

#### **Russell Holloman**

Franklinton High Franklin County Schools

#### **Bennett Jones**

Clayton High Johnston County Public Schools

#### Jennifer Lewis

Rock Ridge Elementary Wilson County Schools

#### **Tracy Neal**

Warren Early College High Warren County Schools

#### Leanne O'Quinn

Anderson Creek Primary Harnett County Schools

#### Aimee Petrarca

Greenwood Elementary Lee County Schools

#### **Christopher Poston**

Pittsboro Elementary Chatham County Schools

#### **Victor Ward**

Nash Central High Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools

#### **John Williams**

Phoenix Academy High Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools



### Jim Butler

## SANDHILLS REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Richmond Senior High | Richmond County Schools

"The daily interaction with teachers, students, and parents is how you create relationships that will build a positive school culture."

- 19 years of administrative experience
- UNC-Greensboro (Ed.S)
- East Carolina University (MSA)
- Pembroke State University (BA)
- Daily Journal Best of the Best Principal Award
- National School to Watch
- Established Jump Start Day Transition Program
- Implemented 1 to 1 Technology Initiative

#### SANDHILLS DISTRICT WINNERS <</p>

#### Larry Brooks, II

Red Springs High Public Schools of Robeson County

#### **Sloan Browning**

Mt. Gilead Elementary
Montgomery County Schools

#### Ashlee Ciccone

Pinehurst Elementary Moore County Schools

#### **Jennifer Daughtry**

Hobbton High Sampson County Schools

#### **Ronna Gore**

Old Dock Elementary Columbus County Schools

#### **Deborah Guyton**

Bladenboro Primary Bladen County Schools

#### Kesha Hood

Laurel Hill Elementary Scotland County Schools

#### Lavette McMillan

New Century International Middle Cumberland County Schools

#### Shawn O'Connor

Rockfish Hoke Elementary Hoke County Schools

#### **Jennifer Pope**

L. C. Kerr Elementary Clinton City Schools

#### **Jimmie Sealev**

Whiteville High Whiteville City Schools



### **Tracy Kimmer**

## PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Yadkin Early College | Yadkin County Schools

"We continually celebrate small and large accomplishments for students and staff with the intent to build and maintain a positive family atmosphere."

- 17 years of administrative experience
- UNC-Greensboro (Ed.S)
- Gardner-Webb (MSA)
- Appalachian State University (BS)
- Four consecutive years of 100% Graduation Rate
- Three consecutive years of School Performance Grade A with Exceeded Growth Status
- Developed Early College Cup Championship Program

#### → PIEDMONT-TRIAD DISTRICT WINNERS <

#### **Emmet Alexander**

Hugh M. Cummings High Alamance-Burlington Schools

#### Leslie Alexander

R.J. Reynolds High Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

#### **Molly Anderson**

Rockford Elementary Surry County Schools

#### Julie Brady

Charles W. McCrary Elementary Asheboro City Schools

#### **Monique Curry**

Lexington Senior High Lexington City Schools

#### Moriah Dollarhite

Rockingham County Middle Rockingham County Schools

#### JoAnna Gwynn

Bartlett Yancey High Caswell County Schools

#### **Amy Hyatt**

North Davidson Middle Davidson County Schools

#### **Johncarlos Miller**

Grimsley High Guilford County Schools

#### **Doyle Nicholson**

Davie County High Davie County Schools

#### **Nathan Rasev**

North Stokes High Stokes County Schools

#### **April Thompson**

Randolph Early College Randolph County Schools



## Titus L. Hopper

## SOUTHWEST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Cleveland Early College High | Cleveland County Schools

"In my presence, I cannot allow students, faculty or staff to remain the same. My personal growth as a leader influences the growth and development of my staff and students."

- 5 years of administrative experience
- UNC-Charlotte (MSA)
- NC State University (BS)
- NC Principal Fellow
- NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice graduate
- 95.74% Graduation Rate
- Inaugural member of Cleveland Emerging Leaders Academy

#### ⇒ SOUTHWEST DISTRICT WINNERS <</p>

#### Dr. Dana Ayers

Lincolnton Middle Lincoln County Schools

#### Ellen Blue

Richfield Elementary Stanly County Schools

#### Dr. Mandi Campbell

Fred L. Wilson Elementary Kannapolis City Schools

#### **Angelo DelliSanti**

Jesse C. Carson High Rowan-Salisbury Schools

#### Dr. Chuck LaRusso

Rocky River Elementary
Mooresville Graded School District

#### Kim Mitchell

Shepherd Elementary Iredell-Statesville Schools

#### **Richard Parker**

East Mecklenburg High Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

#### **Catherine Perry**

New Town Elementary Union County Public Schools

#### Liz Snyder

Hickory Ridge Middle Cabarrus County Schools

#### **Christopher Stinson**

Anson High Anson County Schools

#### **Phyllis Whitworth**

Belmont Central Elementary Gaston County Schools



## **Desarae Kirkpatrick**

#### NORTHWEST REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Nebo Elementary | McDowell County Schools

"As long as we make decisions that are based on our children, then we'll be making the right decision."

- 12 years of administrative experience
- East Tennessee State University (MA)
- Lenoir Rhyne College (BA)
- NCPAPA Distinguished Leadership in Practice graduate
- Global Education Program participant
- Connecting Communities of Education Stakeholders Inaugural Conference presenter

#### → NORTHWEST DISTRICT WINNERS <

#### Sandra Burchette

East Wilkes Middle Wilkes County Schools

#### Colby Calhoun

Gouge Elementary Mitchell County Schools

#### **Justin Carver**

Banner Elk Elementary Avery County Schools

#### **Preston Clarke**

Valle Crucis Elementary Watauga County Schools

#### Stephanie Dischiavi

Southwest Primary Hickory Public Schools

#### Miranda Elkins

Cane River Middle Yancev County Schools

#### **Dr. Chad Maynor**

West Alexander Middle Alexander County Schools

#### Lee Miller

H. M. Arndt Middle Catawba County Schools

#### **Felicia Simmons**

Freedom High Burke County Public Schools

#### **Craig Styron**

Collettsville School Caldwell County Schools

#### **Rosanna Whisnant**

Newton-Conover Middle Newton-Conover City Schools



## **Melissa Godfrey**

## WESTERN REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR Andrews Elementary | Cherokee County Schools

"I believe that all students are capable of achieving greatness particularly when teachers acknowledge that not all students learn in the same way and at the same pace."

- 4 years of administrative experience
- Lincoln Memorial University (Ed.S)
- Piedmont College (MA)
- UNC-Asheville (BA)
- Initiated Lunch and Literary Program
- Principal Representative for district MTSS team
- Twenty-six point improvement in School Performance over three years
- North Carolina Teaching Fellow

#### ⇒ WESTERN DISTRICT WINNERS <</p>

#### **Chad Auten**

Mills River Elementary Henderson County Public Schools

#### **Leland Blankenship**

Enka Middle Buncombe County Schools

#### Sarah Cain

Ira B. Jones Elementary Asheville City Schools

#### Vicki Davis

Swain West Elementary Swain County Schools

#### Dr. Rebecca Ensley

Jackson County Early College Jackson County Public Schools

#### April Gavdosh

Brevard Elementary Transylvania County Schools

#### **Shawn Parris**

Bethel Middle Haywood County Schools

#### Monica Ponder

Brush Creek Elementary Madison County Schools

#### Dr. Keith Silver

Rutherford-Spindale Middle Rutherford County Schools

#### **Barry Woody**

Franklin High Macon County Schools

## 2017 Wells Fargo North Carolina Regional Principals of the Year



Jason Griffin

2017 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

NORTHEAST REGION | PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS



Maria Johnson SOUTHEAST REGION Onslow County Schools



Kiley Brown NORTH CENTRAL REGION Orange County Schools



Dr. Mary Hemphill SANDHILLS REGION Scotland County Schools



Jusmar Maness
PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION
Asheboro City Schools



Amy Rhyne SOUTHWEST REGION Iredell-Statesville Schools



**Dr. Jeffrey Isenhour** NORTHWEST REGION Catawba County Schools



Doris Sellers
WESTERN REGION
Buncombe County Schools

## About the Program

The Wells Fargo Principal of the Year Award was introduced in 1984 to recognize the role of the principal in establishing an environment conducive to the pursuit and achievement of academic excellence in North Carolina's schools. This Foundation sponsors the award in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Since the inception of the program, there have been 38 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principals of the Year, 248 regional award recipients, and 3,167 local Wells Fargo Principals of the Year.

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

#### ⇒PREVIOUS WINNERS<

2017	Jason Griffin	Perquimans County Schools, Hertford Grammar
2016	Melody Chalmers	Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High
2015	Steve Lassiter, Jr.	Pitt County Schools, Pactolus School
2014	Dr. Carrie Tulbert	Mooresville Graded School District, Mooresville Middle
2013	Dale Cole	Beaufort County Schools, Chocowinity Middle
2012	Patrice Faison	Guilford County Schools, Oak Hill Elementary
2011	Dr. Rob Jackson	Union County Public Schools, Cuthbertson High
2010	Dr. Jan King	Henderson County Schools, Glenn C. Marlow Elementary
2009	Vann Pennell	Brunswick County Schools, South Brunswick High
2008	Debra Morris	Kannapolis City Schools, A.L. Brown High
2007	Craig Hill	Lenoir County Schools, Kinston High
2006	Marian Yates	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, South Mecklenburg High
2005	Margaret Hyatt	Buncombe County Schools, Avery's Creek Elementary
2004	John R. Black	Hickory City Schools, Longview Elementary
2003	Nina René Corders	Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High
2002	Lloyd G. Wimberley	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Myers Park High
2001	Peggy Smith	Johnston County Schools, East Clayton Elementary
2000	Gail T. Edmondson	Greene County Schools, Snow Hill Primary
1999	Daniel A. Piggott	Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools, Carver High

"What lies before us and what lies behind us are small matters compared to what lies within us. And when we bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen."

— Henry David Thoreau

1998	Pandora M. Bell	Guilford County Schools, Jesse Wharton Elementary
1997	Judith H. Budacz	Pitt County Schools, Wahl-Coates Elementary
1996	Mary D. McDuffie	Cumberland County Schools, Seventy-First High
1995	Jo Ann Bowman	Lee County Schools, J. Glenn Edwards Elementary
1994	David C. Burleson	Burke County Schools, Freedom High
1993	Ann B. Clark	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Alexander Graham Middle
1992	Jane B. Burke	Hertford County Schools, Hertford County High
1991	John M. Schroeder	High Point City Schools, Fairview Elementary
1990	John R. Griffin	Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High
1989	Barbara M. Ledford	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Northeast Jr. High
1988	Dan A. Jones	Guilford County Schools, Erwin Open Elementary
1987*	Karen H. Campbell Dale J. Metz	Buncombe County Schools, W.W. Estes Elementary Greensboro City Schools, Gateway Education Center
1986*	Patricia F. Gibson Janie E. Manning	Newton-Conover City Schools, Newton-Conover Middle Pitt County Schools, Bethel Elementary
1985*	Alice H. Hart Beverly S. White	Buncombe County Schools, Glen Arden Elementary Hickory City Schools, Jenkins Elementary
1984*	Robert A. Clendenin Alexander Erwin	Guilford County Schools, Paige High Wilkes County Schools, Wilkes Central High

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



# Recognizing extraordinary efforts



Achieving great things in any community takes courage, vision, and tremendous effort. What each of us does can make life better for everyone.

2018 North Carolina Principal of the Year, you are appreciated and admired every day.

wellsfargo.com/stories

© 2018 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. IHA-22229 Together we'll go far

The Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year process is facilitated by the area of Educator Support Services.