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
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**

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.

**EF**

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**

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.
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-Martín • 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
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

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

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
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  
Hobbtton 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 Sealey  
Whiteville High  
Whiteville 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
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

Tracy Kimber

PIEDMONT-TRIAD DISTRICT WINNERS

Emmet Alexander
Hugh M. Cummings High
Alamance-Burlington Schools

JoAnna Gwynn
Bartlett Yancey High
Caswell County Schools

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

Amy Hyatt
North Davidson Middle
Davidson County Schools

Molly Anderson
Rockford Elementary
Surry County Schools

JohnCarlos Miller
Grimsley High
Guilford County Schools

Julie Brady
Charles W. McCrary Elementary
Asheboro City Schools

Doyle Nicholson
Davie County High
Davie County Schools

Monique Curry
Lexington Senior High
Lexington City Schools

Nathan Rasey
North Stokes High
Stokes County Schools

Moriah Dollarhite
Rockingham County Middle
Rockingham County Schools

April Thompson
Randolph Early College
Randolph County Schools
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

Titus L. Hopper

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT WINNERS

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
Yancey 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

Chad Auten
Mills River Elementary
Henderson County Public Schools

April Gaydosh
Brevard Elementary
Transylvania County Schools

Leland Blankenship
Enka Middle
Buncombe County Schools

Shawn Parris
Bethel Middle
Haywood County Schools

Sarah Cain
Ira B. Jones Elementary
Asheville City Schools

Monica Ponder
Brush Creek Elementary
Madison County Schools

Vicki Davis
Swain West Elementary
Swain County Schools

Dr. Keith Silver
Rutherford-Spindale Middle
Rutherford County Schools

Dr. Rebecca Ensley
Jackson County Early College
Jackson County Public Schools

Barry Woody
Franklin High
Macon County Schools
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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Jason Griffin</td>
<td>Perquimans County Schools, Hertford Grammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Melody Chalmers</td>
<td>Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Steve Lassiter, Jr.</td>
<td>Pitt County Schools, Pactolus School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Dr. Carrie Tulbert</td>
<td>Mooresville Graded School District, Mooresville Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Dale Cole</td>
<td>Beaufort County Schools, Chocowinity Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Patrice Faison</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools, Oak Hill Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Dr. Rob Jackson</td>
<td>Union County Public Schools, Cuthbertson High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Dr. Jan King</td>
<td>Henderson County Schools, Glenn C. Marlow Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Vann Pennell</td>
<td>Brunswick County Schools, South Brunswick High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Debra Morris</td>
<td>Kannapolis City Schools, A.L. Brown High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Craig Hill</td>
<td>Lenoir County Schools, Kinston High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Marian Yates</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, South Mecklenburg High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Margaret Hyatt</td>
<td>Buncombe County Schools, Avery’s Creek Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>John R. Black</td>
<td>Hickory City Schools, Longview Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Nina René Corders</td>
<td>Cumberland County Schools, E.E. Smith High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Lloyd G. Wimberley</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Myers Park High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Peggy Smith</td>
<td>Johnston County Schools, East Clayton Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Gail T. Edmondson</td>
<td>Greene County Schools, Snow Hill Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Daniel A. Piggott</td>
<td>Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools, Carver High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
1988  Dan A. Jones  Guilford County Schools, Erwin Open Elementary
1987* Dale J. Metz  Greensboro City Schools, Gateway Education Center
1986* Patricia F. Gibson  Newton-Conover City Schools, Newton-Conover Middle
1986* Janie E. Manning  Pitt County Schools, Bethel Elementary
1985* Alice H. Hart  Buncombe County Schools, Glen Arden Elementary
1985* Beverly S. White  Hickory City Schools, Jenkins Elementary
1984* Robert A. Clendenin  Guilford County Schools, Paige High
1984* Alexander Erwin  Wilkes County Schools, Wilkes Central High

* 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

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

Follow us at www.ncpublicschools.org/educatoreffectiveness/recognition/poy/