



**BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND
NORTH CAROLINA**

2019

TEACHER
of the
YEAR

CELEBRATING NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATORS:
A Showcase of Excellence

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 



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

SPONSORS

Our special appreciation is extended to sponsors who make the program possible:

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND  **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. BWF became the flagship sponsor for the North Carolina Teacher of the Year program in 2013.

VOYA  **Voya Financial** — Voya Teacher Voices® is Voya Financial's signature program focused on empowering educators. Voya Teacher Voices places teachers as leaders by elevating the teaching career, recognizes high-achieving educators, provides training opportunities to expand educator expertise, and grants funding for educators to pursue innovative curriculum design in the classroom. For more information, please visit www.voyateachervoices.com.

FLOW  **Flow Honda in Winston Salem** — After 50 years in the retail automobile business, Flow Companies continue to be defined by three simple principles:

- A covenant with our customers to be a place that keeps its promises and is worthy of their trust.
- A community of people who work together towards a common vision.
- A commitment to work towards the common good of every city where we do business.

Don Flow, CEO, of Flow Honda in Winston-Salem donates a one-year lease on a new vehicle for the North Carolina Teacher of the Year Program to assist the Teacher of the Year in traveling the state. Support of the recognition program highlights the company's appreciation and commitment to public education and teachers across our state.



Go Global NC — Go Global NC connects North Carolina and the world. For nearly 40 years, our international education and training programs have empowered North Carolinians with the skills, understanding, connections, and knowledge to succeed in a global economy. Go Global NC is proud to be 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. NC State Athletics provides the best environment for students to achieve their athletic, academic, and personal aspirations as well as provides support for the professional development of our coaches and staff, all within the role of the greater institutional relationships to the University.

Lenovo  **Lenovo** — Lenovo is committed to supporting educators. As the leading computer, server and smartphone company in the world and a global industry leader in the education market, Lenovo is committed to making a difference in support of teachers, students, classrooms, and education through related initiatives focused on community investments and collaborative partnerships. With over 3,000 employees at its Morrisville headquarters and Guilford County distribution center, Lenovo is proud to call North Carolina home.

NOKID HUNGRY  **No Kid Hungry NC** — No Kid Hungry North Carolina is working to break down the barriers that keep kids from healthy food. They help connect our state's children — including the almost 900,000 public school students who qualify for free-or-reduced price meals — to effective but under-utilized federal nutrition programs such as school breakfast, summer meals, and afterschool meals. 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. Learn more about nutrition's connection to academic success at NoKidHungryNC.org.

AWARD CEREMONY

MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

DR. CYNTHIA M. MARTIN • Recognition & Advancement Lead
District & Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

DR. JAMES ELLERBE • Interim Director, District & Regional Support, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

VIDEO GREETING

ALAN DUNCAN • Vice Chairman, State Board of Education

INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT

DR. SONJA BROWN • National Board Certification Coordinator, District & Regional Support
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

— LUNCHEON —

SPECIAL MESSAGE

REMARKS

DR. SAMUEL HOUSTON • President/CEO of NCSMT Education Center, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

MARIE COX • Regional Vice President of Tax Exempt Markets, Voya Financial

MEREDITH HENDERSON • Senior Director of Programs, Go Global NC

MILANKA MUECKE • Director of PR, Events & Community Relations, Lenovo

RYAN KINDT • Director of Ticket Sales, NC State Athletics

LOU ANNE CRUMPLER • State Director, No Kid Hungry NC

SPECIAL REMARKS

FREEBIRD MCKINNEY • 2018 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

— VIDEO PRESENTATION —

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL CANDIDATES

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2019 BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

DR. CYNTHIA M. MARTIN

Photos immediately following ceremony on terrace for finalists and sponsors

NORTHEAST REGION



DAMON WALCOTT

Northeast Region Teacher of the Year

Washington High

Beaufort County Schools

- 9th-12th Grade Art & CTE Teacher
- 14 years teaching experience
- East Carolina University (MA)
- Illinois State University (BA)
- Art Department Head
- Beginning Teacher Mentor
- NC Arts Association Artist in Residency Grant recipient
- National Board Certification

Northeast REGION WINNERS

MARIE ALVAREZ

Weeksville Elementary | Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

CHELSEA BRANTLEY

Nags Head Elementary | Dare County Schools

JULIE BRICKHOUSE

Wahl-Coates Elementary | Pitt County Schools

ANNE BRINKLEY

Gates County High | Gates County Schools

CHAVON BRYANT

Rodger Elementary | Martin County Schools

SUSAN BUZZARD

Currituck County High | Currituck County Schools

CHRISTINA CHARITY

Conway Middle | Northampton County Schools

JENNIFER FRIEND

William R. Davie S.T.E.M. Academy | Halifax County Schools

KATINA HANTZ

Chaloner Middle | Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools

MICHAEL KINKEAD

Hertford County Early College High | Hertford County Public Schools

CHELSEA LEARY

Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience

ANGELA LEE-EASTER

Roanoke Valley Early College High | Weldon City Schools

ANGIE WALSTON

White Oak Elementary | Edenton-Chowan Schools

LINDA WEST

Washington County High | Washington County Schools

JESSICA WHITTEMORE

Mattamuskeet Early College High | Hyde County Schools

HEATHER WINSLOW

Perquimans County Middle | Perquimans County Schools

SOUTHEAST REGION



CHRISTY HOWE Southeast Region Teacher of the Year

Bradley Creek Elementary
New Hanover County Schools

- K-5th Grade Gifted Education Teacher
- 19 years teaching experience
- Boston College (M.Ed)
- UNC - Charlotte (Certificate)
- Vanderbilt University (BA)
- School Improvement Team Chair
- Beginning Teacher Mentor
- Helped to redesign county-wide summer preparedness program for rising kindergartners
- National Board Certification

Southeast REGION WINNERS

KATY CHADWICK

James W. Smith Elementary | Craven County Schools

KATENA CHERRY

Southeast Elementary | Lenoir County Public Schools

ALLISON DODGE

Beaufort Elementary | Carteret County Public Schools

MICHELLE GALLOWAY

Greene Central High | Greene County Schools

ERIN GREEN

Heide Trask High | Pender County Schools

CLAIRE HERRINGTON

Southport Elementary | Brunswick County Schools

LYNN MARSHBURN

North Duplin Jr.-Sr. High | Duplin County Schools

TRACIE MILLS

Comfort Elementary | Jones County Schools

BRANDI PHILIPPS

Pamlico County High | Pamlico County Schools

ALIANNA SIGLER

Jacksonville Commons Elementary | Onslow County Schools

DENISE TILDEN

Rosewood Elementary | Wayne County Public Schools

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



C. R. "KATIE" EDDINGS

North Central Region Teacher of the Year

Lee County High

Lee County Schools

- 10th-12th Grade AVID Teacher
- 15 years teaching experience
- UNC-Pembroke (MSA)
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas (BA)
- Serves as Each One, Reach One Student Mentor
- Beginning Teacher Mentor
- AVID National Teacher Speaker, Orlando, FL.
- Lee County NAACP Education Service Award recipient

North Central REGION WINNERS

KIMBERLY ALLISON

G. C. Hawley Middle | Granville County Public Schools

LEONARD BAKER

Eastern NC School for the Deaf

HANNAH BETHEA

Franklinton Elementary | Franklin County Schools

MICHEL COLE-BAILEY

South Warren Elementary | Warren County Schools

ANGELA CUSAAC

Vance County High | Vance County Schools

LEE HARRISON

Edgecombe Early College High | Edgecombe County Public Schools

JASMINE JOHNSON

Mary Scroggs Elementary | Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

BETSY JORDAN

Fox Road Magnet Elementary | Wake County Public School System

LYNN MEYERS

Pittsboro Elementary | Chatham County Schools

LEIGH ANNE ORR

Elm City Middle | Wilson County Schools

LUIS RIOS

New Hope Elementary | Orange County Schools

MICHAEL SCARANO

Highland Elementary | Harnett County Schools

GREG TURNER

Person High | Person County Schools

MIKA TWIETMEYER

Riverside High | Durham Public Schools

DEBORAH VANCE-GLOVER

Cedar Grove Elementary | Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools

SANDHILLS REGION



MARIAH MORRIS

Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year

West Pine Elementary
Moore County Schools

- 2nd Grade Teacher
- 10 years teaching experience
- Wake Forest University (M.Ed)
- UNC- Chapel Hill (BA)
- Moore County Schools Recruitment and Retention Team member
- Robotics Assistant Coach
- Read to Achieve Summer Reading Camp Program Director
- NC Teaching Fellow

Sandhills REGION WINNERS

AMANDA BASS

Sampson Middle | Clinton City Schools

WORLEY EDWARDS II

West Columbus High | Columbus County Schools

ZACHARY FERGUSON

Scotland Early College High | Scotland County Schools

HELENA KING

L. Gilbert Carroll Middle | Public Schools of Robeson County

CARMEN MCQUEEN

Edgewood Elementary | Whiteville City Schools

JOHNATHAN RAYNOR

East Bladen High | Bladen County Schools

YOLANDA A. SAWYER

East Rockingham Elementary | Richmond County Schools

AMELIA SIMPSON

SandHoke Early College High | Hoke County Schools

AMY KULBETH STOVALL

Gray's Creek High | Cumberland County Schools

AMY TART

Union Intermediate | Sampson County Schools

SHARON THOMPSON

Candor Elementary | Montgomery County Schools

PIEDMONT-TRIAD REGION



SHIELA PATTERSON

Piedmont-Triad Region Teacher of the Year

South Stokes High
Stokes County Schools

- 10th-12th Grade Social Studies Teacher
- 23 years teaching experience
- Winston Salem State University (Certificate)
- UNC- Charlotte (BA)
- Marine Corps JROTC Booster Club President
- Multi-Tiered System of Support Facilitator
- Beginning Teacher Mentor
- National Board Certification

Piedmont-Triad REGION WINNERS

KARA BERRIER

Oak Grove High | Davidson County Schools

PATRICIA COMBS

Mount Airy Middle | Mount Airy City Schools

TIFFANY HELTON

Eastern Alamance High | Alamance-Burlington Schools

HANNA HOLDER

Westfield Elementary | Surry County Schools

ANGELA HUNT

Trinity Elementary | Randolph County School System

ROBIN LEE

Thomasville Middle | Thomasville City Schools

DAWN LOWERY

North Davie Middle | Davie County Schools

MARY "MOLLY" LYONS

Asheboro High | Asheboro City Schools

JILL MATTHEWS

Yadkinville Elementary | Yadkin County Schools

TABITHA MILES

Oakwood Elementary | Caswell County Schools

SHAWNSHURAY MOSLEY

Southwest Elementary | Lexington City Schools

KAREN SPENCER

Elkin Middle | Elkin City Schools

BROOKE SUMNER

High Point Central High | Guilford County Schools

AMY TALLEY

Jefferson Elementary | Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools

CHERYL YEATTS

John Motley Morehead High | Rockingham County Schools

SOUTHWEST REGION



KATE CULBRETH Southwest Region Teacher of the Year

Wolf Meadow Elementary
Cabarrus County Schools

- 5th Grade ELA Teacher
- 8 years teaching experience
- Appalachian State University (Certificate)
- UNC-Charlotte (M.Ed)
- Nazareth College of Rochester (BA)
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund Science and Mathematics Education Grant recipient
- Academic Learning Center Program Coordinator
- Cabarrus County Teacher Leader Cohort member
- National Board Certification

Southwest REGION WINNERS

CARMIN ADAMS

Belmont Central Elementary | Gaston County Schools

ELIZABETH ASTON

Park View Elementary | Mooresville Graded School District

ASHLEY ERB

Western Union Elementary | Union County Public Schools

BETH GIDDINGS

G.W. Carver Elementary | Kannapolis City Schools

APRIL JOHNSON

Tuckaseegee Elementary | Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

JEFF LITTLE

East Albemarle Elementary | Stanly County Schools

KRISTY MANNERS

East Iredell Elementary | Iredell-Statesville Schools

BONNIE MCMURRAY

Anson County Early College High | Anson County Schools

GILLIAN MOORE

North Lincoln High | Lincoln County Schools

ZACHARY OVERCASH

Jesse Carson High | Rowan-Salisbury Schools

HEATHER POSTON

Springmore Elementary | Cleveland County Schools

NORTHWEST REGION



LAURA BROOKS

Northwest Region Teacher of the Year

Wilkes Central High
Wilkes County Schools

- 9th-11th Grade Math Teacher
- 12 years teaching experience
- Appalachian State University (MA)
- Elon University (BA)
- Cooperating Teacher - Appalachian State University
- Beginning Teacher Mentor
- NCDPI Math Standards Reviewer
- NC Teaching Fellow

Northwest REGION WINNERS

LEE ALDRIDGE

Riverside Elementary | Avery County Schools

ANGELA AUTREY

McDowell High | McDowell County Schools

JARED CLARK

H. M. Arndt Middle | Catawba County Schools

JILL GAMBILL

Ashe County Middle | Ashe County Schools

LESLIE HILLIARD

East Yancey Middle | Yancey County Schools

TERRI HODGES

Blowing Rock Elementary | Watagua County Schools

AMY HOWELL

Freedom High | Burke County Public Schools

ROCHELLE MEDVEC

Conover | Newton-Conover City Schools

STACY MILLER

Alleghany High | Alleghany County Schools

AMY THOMAS

Deyton Elementary | Mitchell County Schools

AMBER TREADWAY

East Alexander Middle | Alexander County Schools

ROBERT TURNER

Grandview Middle | Hickory Public Schools

JONATHAN WHITE

Hibriten High | Caldwell County Schools

WESTERN REGION



CAESAR CAMPANA IV

Western Region Teacher of the Year

Hayesville High
Clay County Schools

- 9th-12th grade ELA and STEM Teacher
- 17 years teaching experience
- Western Carolina University (BSEd)
- Co-Chair of PLC Development Team
- Designed and implemented elective STEM course, Games-Based Learning
- Asheville Citizen-Times Western NC Track Coach of the Year
- North Carolina Teacher Voice Network Local Chapter member

Western REGION WINNERS

CINDY DRYMAN

South Macon Elementary | Macon County Schools

JB HALPIN

Pisgah Elementary | Buncombe County Schools

JESSICA JACKSON

Ira B. Jones Elementary | Asheville City Schools

ANGELA LOWERY

Pinnacle Elementary | Rutherford County Schools

KATIE MCCRARY

Rugby Middle | Henderson County Public Schools

WREN MILLSAPS

Robbinsville High | Graham County Schools

JONATHAN PARSONS

Jackson County School of Alternatives | Jackson County Public Schools

HAYLEY PRINCE

Junaluska Elementary | Haywood County Schools

KRISTIE REYNOLDS

Swain East Elementary | Swain County Schools

LESLIE RHINEHART

Polk County High | Polk County Schools

JAMIE VEROLA

Martins Creek Elementary and Middle | Cherokee County Schools

MISSY WEST

Rosman Middle | Transylvania County Schools

JULIE YOUNG

Madison Early College High | Madison County Schools

CHARTER SCHOOLS



DOUGLAS PRICE

Charter Schools Teacher of the Year

Voyager Academy Middle
Durham, NC

- 6th Grade Teacher
- 11 years teaching experience
- UNC-Greensboro (Doctoral Candidate)
- North Carolina State University (M.Ed.)
- UNC- Greensboro (BS)
- BestNC, Teacher Consultant Chair
- Public School Forum of NC research intern
- Hope Street Group Fellowship-National Teacher Advisory member
- Kenan Fellow

Charter Schools REGION WINNERS

WILTER BLANCO

Pine Lake Preparatory

JEFF BOSTIC

Clover Garden School

SHERRELL BRANCH-EZELL

The Capitol Encore Academy

AMY BRINKLEY

Ignite Innovation Academy

SAMANTHA CRAWFORD

Shining Rock Classical Academy

LACY DAVIS

East Wake Academy

TRAVIS DEZORDO

Lake Norman Charter High

AMY EDWARDS

Bear Grass Charter

LEANNE GLACE

Envision Science Academy

OLIVIA JOHNSON

Anderson Creek Academy

ALEXANDRIA KEILEN

Socrates Academy

GARY OAKLEY

Chatham Charter

JULIA MATTHEWS

Union Academy

BETH MILLER

Neuse Charter

DEANNA MULLINS

Southern Wake Academy

SARA MORROW

Roxboro Community

AMANDA O'BRIEN

North Carolina Virtual Academy

MELISSA REDDEN

ArtSpace Charter

LISA ROUTH

Uwharrie Charter Academy

ALLYSE SEARCY

Lake Lure Classical Academy

KIM SMYTH

American Renaissance

LAURA SUGGS

Lincoln Charter

TONI STALLINGS

Mountain Island Charter

SHALA SPENCE

Northeast Academy for Aerospace
& Advanced Technologies

ERIKA WELLMAN

IC Imagine

SYLVIA WOLFF

Water's Edge Village

LISA ZEKANIS

Southeastern Academy Charter

2018 NORTH CAROLINA REGIONAL TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Freebird McKinney



Piedmont-Triad Region
Walter Williams High
Alamance-Burlington Schools



KALEY KIFFNER

Northeast Region Teacher of the Year
Perquimans County Middle
Perquimans County Schools



CAMERON GUPTON

Southeast Region Teacher of the Year
Greene Early College High
Greene County Schools



KEDECIA ANECIA STEWART

North Central Region Teacher of the Year
Pinkston Street Elementary
Vance County Schools



LINDSEY SISE

Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year
West Hoke Middle
Hoke County Schools



SAMONE GRAHAM

Southwest Region Teacher of the Year
Mooreville High
Mooreville Graded School District



LISA WALL

Northwest Region Teacher of the Year
Burke Middle College
Burke County Public Schools



JULIE PAIGE PITTMAN

Western Region Teacher of the Year
R-S Central High
Rutherford County Schools



COURTNEY SAMUELSON

Charter Schools Teacher of the Year
The Capitol Encore Academy
Fayetteville, NC

PAST NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNERS

- 2018 Freebird McKinney**, Alamance-Burlington Schools, History/Philosophy, High School
- 2017 Lisa Godwin**, Onslow County Schools, Kindergarten
- 2016 Bobbie J. Cavnar**, Gaston County Schools, English/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
- 2002 Melissa Bartlett**, Iredell-Statesville Schools, English, High School, "National Finalist"
- 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 Vernestine 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 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"

“I realized that this was WHY I wanted to become a teacher. I wanted to guide my students to find meaning, to discover purpose, and to use their own ‘Master Story’ to understand that they are the ‘hero of their own journey.’ I yearned for them to see that life was an adventure, some harder than others, but each and every one of them could and should be the ‘hero of their own journey.’”

FREEBIRD MCKINNEY

2018 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Please share moments from today on social media using #nctoyoy.

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year process is facilitated by the District & Regional Support Unit.