



Wachovia
Principal of the Year
2008

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. In addition to serving in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education, the Wachovia Principal of the Year is expected to chair the following year's Principal of the Year state selection committee. The statewide winner also receives an appointment to the State Superintendent's Principals Advisory Committee and serves a one-year term on the Board of Directors of the N.C. Public School Forum. The Wachovia Principal of the Year also participates in numerous speaking engagements and committee service across North Carolina, as invited and requested throughout his or her tenure.

Candidates are nominated by their local education agency. Following their nomination, each candidate prepares a comprehensive portfolio for review by a regional selection committee and participates in a 30-minute interview before this committee.

One principal is selected from each of the eight regions designated by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. The regional finalists participate in a second interview with a state selection committee. This committee is charged with traveling across the state to visit each finalist's school to conduct in-depth interviews with faculty, staff, students, parents, and community leaders.

We thank everyone who participated in the nomination and selection process at all levels. Our special appreciation is extended to the members of the state selection team.

STATE SELECTION TEAM

James Bell

2007-2008 North Carolina Teacher of the Year
Chowan Middle School
Edenton-Chowan Public Schools

Alisa McLean

Program Director
Principal's Executive Program
UNC Center for School Leadership Development

Danny Holloman

Section Chief
N.C. Center for Recruitment, Retention,
Recognition & Professional Advancement
N.C. Department of Public Instruction

Sue Choate

Principal of the Year Program Manager
Wachovia Corporation



A G E N D A

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jane Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Wachovia Bank

June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., State Superintendent,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

INVOCATION

J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

LUNCH

RECOGNITION AND REMARKS

Howard N. Lee, North Carolina State Board of Education Chairman

Craig Hill, 2007 North Carolina Wachovia Principal of the Year

Alisa McLean, UNC Center for School Leadership Development

Dan Holloman, N.C. Department of Public Instruction

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2008 WACHOVIA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Jack O. Clayton, Executive Vice President, Wachovia Bank

ADJOURNMENT

Jane Mitchell



Nakia Hardy

Broadview Middle School
Alamance-Burlington School System

PIEDMONT-TRIAD/CENTRAL REGION

Nakia Hardy's career in education began in 1998 as a chemistry teacher at Walter Hines Page High School in Greensboro. In 2003, Hardy was named an administrative intern at Broadview Middle School in Burlington. From 2004 through 2005, she served as assistant principal at Graham High School in Graham. In 2005, she returned to Broadview Middle School in her current position as principal. Hardy graduated from Appalachian State University in 1998, and she earned a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2004. She currently is pursuing an educational doctorate from UNC Chapel Hill.

The Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services in the Alamance-Burlington School System says that Hardy is a remarkable person to know and draws the following analogy: "Knute Rockne stated it best when he said, 'no soldier was ever made by the study of his manual, and no athlete was ever made by mere instruction. Both are made by hard, faithful drill, and the perfection of necessary habits. Performance is all that counts when the game begins.'"

A colleague notes that "Ms. Hardy is constantly studying curriculum, researching best practices, analyzing and disaggregating data, implementing effective policies and procedures, and doing whatever possible to provide the best learning environment for her staff and students in order to raise achievement. Anything else in her book is simply unacceptable."

Hardy says, "Fostering a learning atmosphere where students are constantly engaged in creating new meaning with content information challenges their thinking. When students are academically challenged in a positive atmosphere, they begin to develop a strong desire for learning. My vision as an effective school leader is to create a teaching and learning environment where education thrives. Our goal at Broadview is to provide a high-quality education along with life experiences that develop adolescents into critical thinkers with a passion for life-long learning."

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

From August 1986 through 1995, Moore taught French at Northern Nash High School and Enloe High School. She was named assistant principal at Apex High School in 1997 and later that year returned to Enloe High School as assistant principal. Moore assumed her current position as principal of Jesse O. Sanderson High School in 2000. She graduated from North Carolina State University in 1986 and earned a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997.

Moore's superintendent says, "Through her focus on students, she has earned their respect and trust. Through her commitment to educational excellence, she has gained the respect and confidence of parents and the community. Through her dedication to her teachers, she has gained their trust. As her immediate supervisor, I am indeed fortunate and proud to have her on my team."

A colleague shares that "Moore has a great capacity to draw upon seemingly limitless reserves of patience, kindness, empathy, knowledge, cleverness, articulation, and hope. She believes that she, and the others around her, will learn more if she stays silent and allows them to speak. I am amazed at her quick intellect and cleverness. She is willing to think outside the box and develop appropriate venues through which we may reach our goals."

Moore says, "A school leader serves because it is a calling, a vocation, because I have a passion for children and for the opportunities provided through a sound education. I know that my contribution to this field, to education, walks out the door of Sanderson High School every day in the students' minds and hearts. I want to provide students with a safe place to learn, an opportunity to succeed, a desire to work and enjoy the fruits of their labors. And everyday, I strive to instill that hope that has each one come back tomorrow."



Cathy Moore

Jesse O. Sanderson High School
Wake County Schools



Arty Tillett

First Flight High School
Dare County Schools

NORTHEAST REGION

Tillett began teaching in Manteo Middle School in 1992, and in 1994 he became interim assistant principal there. In 2000, he was named assistant principal at Manteo High School. In 2004, he served as interim principal at Manteo High and Director of Administrative Services for Dare County Schools. In 2005, Tillett became principal of First Flight Middle School and in 2006 assumed his current position as principal of First Flight High School. Tillett graduated in 1990 from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and also earned a master's degree from East Carolina University in 1999.

A colleague says, "Mr. Tillett has been innovative and dynamic in the classroom, infusing students with motivation and instilling in them an appetite for the joys of learning." Another comments, "...his expectation is that we do whatever it takes to prepare students for their future. He continually tells us that if it is in the best interest of kids, he will find a way to make it happen. Arty constantly challenges us to not be satisfied with the good school we are, because he knows we can be great!"

His superintendent shares, "Arty Tillett is a man of high integrity and honesty and is an excellent role model for students and teachers alike. Nothing dampens his enthusiasm nor stands in the way of his quest for knowledge."

"I take this responsibility with the utmost seriousness and humility," Tillett says. "My goal is to help create a team of highly skilled, committed and caring educators who work together with me to provide and ensure that all of our students are well prepared to be successful in life. I want to make a difference. I want our students to leave us with a world of options so that each of them is equipped and ready to live happy, successful, and fulfilling lives."

NORTHWEST REGION

Cartner's career as an educator began as a teacher in North Rowan Middle School in 1982. He taught at South Rowan High School from 1983 to 1989. Cartner also has served as assistant principal at Salisbury High School, Davie County High School, and Mocksville Elementary School. He was named principal of William R. Davie Elementary School in 2002 and to his current position as principal of South Davie Middle School in 2005. Cartner graduated from North Carolina State University in 1982, earned a master's degree in 1989, and an Ed. D in educational leadership in 2005, both from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

His superintendent comments that "Dr. Cartner has been a solid performer in our administrative ranks. He is recognized by his peers as a leader, and he takes time framing intelligent solutions to dilemmas. He personifies the character of administrators we look forward to experiencing in our schools...."

A colleague shares that "Danny Cartner is a consensus builder who has the rare ability to bring together many different personalities and have them work together for the benefit of students. He says that there are not problems or weaknesses; there are opportunities for improvement. Dr. Cartner has instilled an air of ownership among the faculty and staff that translates into a positive work environment by our putting students' needs first and foremost."

"As a principal, I try to set a tone in the school that puts the student in the center of the school community as someone loved and cared for, who is the reason and substance of our existence. I believe that education exists...to bring experiences to students that encourage them to identify what in the society is worthy of their attention and endeavors, and to shape a life that ultimately changes the culture around them into something better...."



Danny Cartner

South Davie Middle School
Davie County Schools



Lori Howard

Clyde Erwin Elementary School
Onslow County Schools

SOUTHEAST REGION

From 1987 until 1989, Howard taught at Nash Central Junior High School. She served as the director of the Rocky Mount Sylvan Learning Center from 1989 until 1991 when she returned to teach at Northwoods Elementary until 1994. Howard was assistant principal at Southwest Middle School from 1994 until 1999 and assistant principal at Clyde Erwin Elementary from 1999 until 2001 when she was named principal of Swansboro Middle School. She has been principal at Clyde Erwin since 2003. She graduated from East Carolina University in 1983 and also earned a master's degree from ECU in 1993.

A colleague says, "Lori Howard empowers all of her staff to be innovative, enthusiastic, and responsible leaders as we go about the business of helping children to succeed in the immediate, as well as lay the groundwork for success in their future endeavors. Most instrumental in Mrs. Howard's leadership is the belief that all decisions we make at school must be in the best interests of the children. She recognizes that the faces she greets every morning are the future and that we are afforded a wonderful gift to help these children discover their passions that will hopefully lead them to their successful journeys as adults. Lori Howard exemplifies innovative and compassionate leadership."

Howard shares, "Our philosophy of doing what's best for children is lived out each and every day. My greatest hope in living out my career as a principal is that my students will experience success academically, socially, and professionally; and they will look back on their school careers and fondly think of their principal as a lady who loved children and wanted what was best for them. When I retire, my hope is that my staff reflects on me as a leader who valued each of them and made this inevitably hard job of education rewarding and fun."

SOUTHWEST REGION

From 1983 through 1999, Dr. Morris taught English at East Surry High School, Piedmont High School, and Wingate University. She was named assistant principal at South Iredell High School in 1999 and principal at West Lincoln High School in 2001. From 2004 until 2005, Morris served as Director of Secondary Education for Lincoln County Schools. She assumed her current position as principal of A.L. Brown High School in 2005. Dr. Morris graduated from Appalachian State University in 1981, earned a Master of Arts degree in English in 1994, a Master of Arts in School Administration in 1999, and completed a Doctorate degree in 2003, all from UNC Charlotte.

Her superintendent says, “Dr. Morris totally commits herself to the success of the students in her school, and she is truly an example of all she expects from her teachers, staff, and students. She is one of the most effective and charismatic leaders I have ever seen. She believes strongly in the value of all students and that all students, regardless of their circumstances, can achieve. She is an innovative, motivational leader who expects and gets the best from her staff and students. She is a model principal.”

“High school students are at a critical stage in their development as young people and need someone to believe in them, encourage them, and help them reach their potential,” she says. “Being a high school principal is what I was meant to do. It is my life’s mission. It is hard work and a commitment. It is why I love getting up everyday. It is making a positive difference in the lives of others. It is about heart. My job is the most rewarding job in the universe. I love going to my job everyday to experience the small miracles that transform a life and make your heart want to burst.”



Debra Morris

A.L. Brown High School
Kannapolis City Schools



Vicki Kirby

Pate-Gardner Elementary School
Scotland County Schools

SANDHILLS/SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Kirby began her career in South Carolina where she taught middle school from 1972 until 1984. From 1984 until 1992, she was the Director of Instruction and Staff Development in Marion, South Carolina. From 1988 until 1990, she was as an elementary school principal. In 1993, Kirby was named interim principal while simultaneously fulfilling the duties in a South Carolina district position. She was the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction from 1992 until 2001; and from 2001 through 2004 she was a Principal Leader. She became principal of Pate-Gardner Elementary School in Gibson, North Carolina, in 2004. Kirby holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina. She earned an Ed.S. degree in 1990 from Winthrop University.

Her superintendent says, "Mrs. Kirby's strong background in education and her ongoing quest for more information and strategies to improve student learning have provided her with a deep understanding of instruction. She's using this rich background and knowledge to guide and nurture her staff to be more effective teachers. She is the dream of every superintendent who wants their principals to be instructional leaders."

A colleague shares that it doesn't take long to "realize that that her life is about teaching. Her purpose in life, it appears, is to make a difference in other's lives. She is the stuff that true compassionate leaders are made of."

"I believe that all students can learn at high levels, and I also now believe my teachers know that too. My teachers now actively seek ways to have students reach for lofty goals and take pride in high achievement. I go home every night feeling good that I have done good things for children, teachers, and our future. We all come out on top when the goal is to make a better life for all with our students at the pinnacle."

WESTERN REGION

Keever's educational career began in 1986 as a teacher at Morganton Junior High School. From 1988 until 1989, he taught in Venezuela, returning to teach in North Carolina from 1989 until 1991. He served as a teacher and athletic director in Syria from 1991 until 1993 when he became assistant principal at Charles D. Owen Middle School in Swannanoa. From 1998 until 2000, Keever was principal of a school in Chile. Later that year, he served as assistant principal at Cane Creek Middle School until 2003 when he became principal of Valley Springs Middle School. Keever earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Carolina University in 1986 and 1991, respectively.

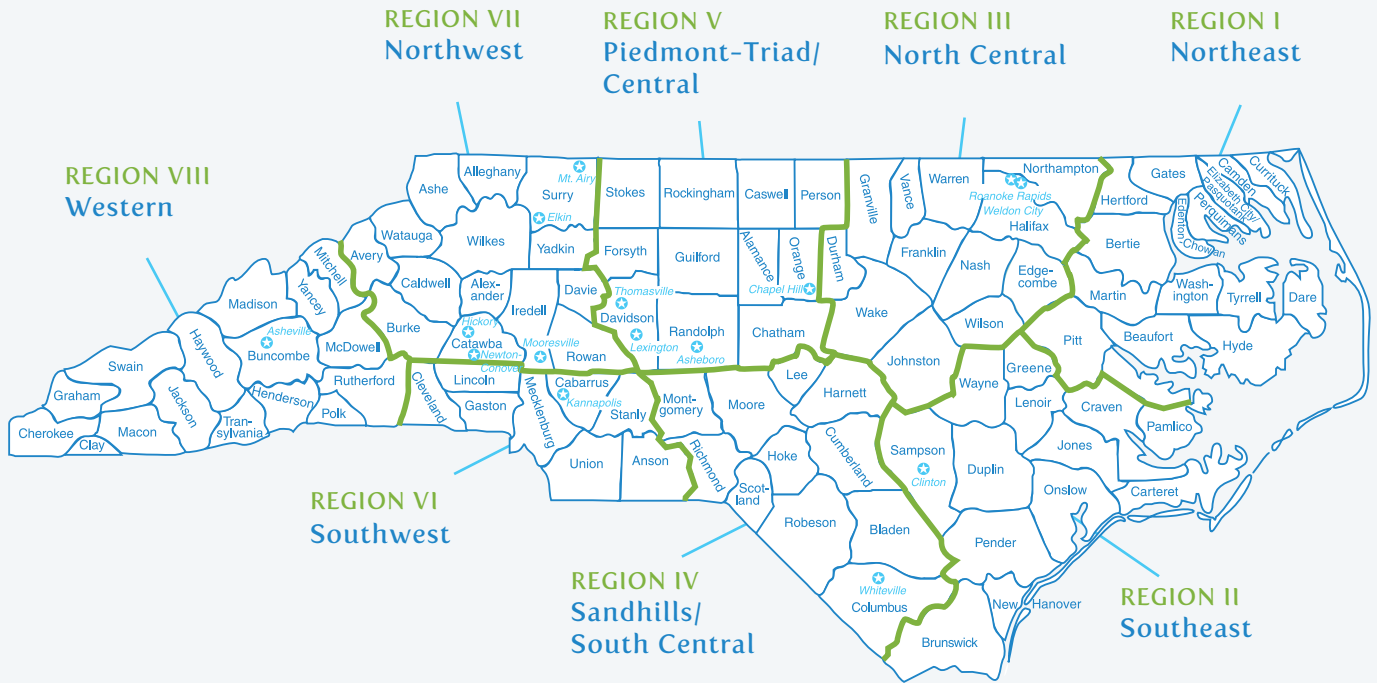
A colleague says, "Keever has provided high-quality professional development, time for implementation, and high expectations for both teachers and students. He cares for his staff, students, and their families, and – most importantly – respects them. He's a visionary leader who inspires teachers to think out of the box so new ideas occur frequently at his school. As a reflective thinker, he's always searching for better practices."

Keever compares his role as principal to "being very similar to the captain of a ship. I need to know not only where we are going but why we want to get there, and I need to get all hands on board working towards the same goal. This approach helps everyone handle stormy weather and navigating uncharted waters. I believe I make a difference as principal. I have daily opportunities to be an ambassador not only for my school and district but for education in general. What I say and do does matter. I set the tone for each day. I try to never underestimate how I influence the lives of children. I believe my greatest contributions are in honoring the dignity of each person with whom I come in contact."



Thomas Keever

Valley Springs Middle School
Buncombe County Schools



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Wachovia 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. Wachovia Corporation sponsors the award in conjunction with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the University of North Carolina School for Leadership Development.

The awards program recognizes principals at the local, regional, and statewide levels. Local winners compete to advance to the regional level. From among the eight regional winners, the statewide Wachovia Principal of the Year is chosen after a state selection committee visits their schools and interviews the candidate, faculty, staff, students, parents, and community leaders.

The statewide Wachovia Principal of the Year receives \$3,000 for personal or professional use, and his or her school receives \$3,000 for educational equipment, materials acquisition, or other uses designated by the principal. Each regional winner receives \$1,500 for personal use and \$1,500 for the school. Each local winner who participates in the regional interview process receives a \$200 cash award for personal use.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction administers the program. Local education agencies nominate a

principal, who prepares a portfolio for review by a selection committee in each education region as designated by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

A statewide committee evaluates the regional winners, and the statewide winner is announced in the spring. Regional and state selection committees are comprised of four or five members, which typically include a principal, classroom teacher, Wachovia representative, education faculty from the University of North Carolina member institutions or North Carolina higher education institutions, and a representative from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Candidates for the awards programs are judged on many criteria. They are expected to merit the respect and admiration of students, teachers, and other professional coworkers, parents, community leaders, and constituents. Involvement in the community as well as local, regional, and state education activities is considered. One of the important qualifications is the demonstrated ability to improve the achievement of all students from various backgrounds and different capabilities.

In the first year of the program, only secondary school principals with a graduating senior class were eligible. In 1985, the program was expanded to include all public school principals – elementary, junior high/middle school, and senior high principals.

P R E V I O U S W I N N E R S

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 Rene' 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
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

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



WACHOVIA