

WACHOVIA | 2010 Principal of the Year



WACHOVIA

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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 25-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 and parents.

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.

2010 STATE SELECTION TEAM

Vann Pennell

2009 Wachovia Principal of the Year
South Brunswick High School
Brunswick County Schools

Jessica Garner

AT&T 2009-2010 North Carolina Teacher of the Year
Porter Ridge High School
Union County Public Schools

Brandon Patterson – Ex-Officio

Assistant Director
Educator Recruitment and Development
N.C. Department of Public Instruction

Sonja Leathers – Ex-Officio

Consultant
Educator Recruitment and Development
N.C. Department of Public Instruction



AGENDA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jane Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Wachovia Bank

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATES

Brandon Patterson and Selection Team Members

INVOCATION

Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

LUNCH

RECOGNITION AND REMARKS

Dr. William C. Harrison, North Carolina State Board of Education Chairman

Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton

Vann Pennell, 2009 Wachovia Principal of the Year

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2010 WACHOVIA PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Jack O. Clayton, Executive Vice President, Wachovia Bank

ADJOURNMENT

Jane Mitchell



DR. JUNE ST. CLAIR ATKINSON

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

June St. Clair Atkinson was elected as the North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction in November 2004 and re-elected in 2008. Dr. Atkinson is North Carolina's first woman elected to this position. She heads the NC Department of Public Instruction, an agency which she served for nearly 28 years as a chief consultant and director in the areas of business education, career and technical education, and instructional services. As a former business education teacher, Atkinson has been involved in instruction and curriculum development throughout her career. She is past president of the National Business Education Association, Southern Regional Education Board's High Schools that Work, and the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium. Atkinson is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa and was inducted into East Carolina University's College of Education Educator Hall of Fame in 2008. She received a Bachelor's degree in Business Education from Radford University in 1969, a Master's degree in Vocational and Technical Education from Virginia Tech in 1974, and a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from North Carolina State University in 1996.

Contact information: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/organization/superintendent/>

DR. WILLIAM C. HARRISON

North Carolina State Board of Education Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Harrison was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Beverly Perdue in March 2009. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Harrison has served North Carolina public schools throughout his career. In addition to more than 11 years as Superintendent in Cumberland County, he also has served as Superintendent in Orange County and in Hoke County. He has also served as an Assistant Superintendent in Brunswick County Schools and as a principal and teacher. Dr. Harrison is an adjunct assistant professor at North Carolina State University. His experience includes serving on numerous state commissions, most recently as Co-Chair of the Education Lottery Oversight Committee and as Vice-Chair of the Military Child Education Coalition. Dr. Harrison holds a bachelor's degree in Intermediate Education from Methodist College - Fayetteville, a master's degree in Educational Administration and an Education Specialist degree in Education Administration from East Carolina University, and an Educational doctorate in Education Administration from Vanderbilt University.





Dianne Hawkins Meiggs

Hertford Grammar School
Perquimans County Schools

REGION 1 – NORTHEAST REGION

Following graduation from Findlay University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Dianne Meiggs served as a Director of Public Relations and Special Programs in Findlay, Ohio. Dianne taught science, became an environmental education coordinator and served as assistant principal at P. W. Moore Elementary before serving as assistant principal at River Road Middle School. In 1992, she earned a degree in Education Administration and Supervision from East Carolina University. After serving as Regional Facilitator for the National Science Foundation in 2000, Dianne became the Program Director for the Northeast Mathematics and Science Partnership in 2005. Throughout her career, Mrs. Meiggs received multiple accolades for science education. In 2006, Dianne Meiggs became the principal at Hertford Grammar School.

District superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings stated, “Mrs. Meiggs possesses truly positive qualities that serve her well – always paying special attention to the small details which makes her school operate in an efficient manner. Mrs. Meiggs is an effective change agent, exploring new initiatives to raise student performance. Collaboration with her staff is an important part of her leadership focus.”

One parent pointed out, “Mrs. Meiggs shows a superior intellectual ability to grasp complex problems. She demonstrates a knack for creative solutions and an unusual combination of flexibility and firmness in implementing chosen strategies.”

Sharing her personal vision for education, Dianne wants “to create a culture of compassionate caring educators who serve all students with a high-quality, interactive, in-depth, and engaging instructional atmosphere. By taking the collective talents of staff, students, families, and the community and joining them together as one, we can obtain the necessary support to ensure that no child is left behind in the journey of learning.”

REGION 2 – SOUTHEAST REGION

From 1988 to 1995, Julie Duclos-Greenwood started her education career dually certified and served as a special-education teacher at J. C. Roe Elementary and a regular-education teacher at Mary C. Williams Elementary. Her administrative career started in 1995 when she served as assistant principal at Carolina Beach Elementary School. In 1997, Julie earned a Doctorate degree from East Carolina University in Curriculum and Instruction and later became the principal at Edwin Alderman Elementary School. Dr. Duclos-Greenwood has served as the principal of Murrayville Elementary School since 2000.

Superintendent Dr. Alfred Lerch remarked, “Dr. Duclos-Greenwood relates exceptionally well to her students, staff, parents, and community. Her experiences, knowledge, and enthusiasm for education have enhanced student achievement and student success. She actively looks for ways to continuously improve student achievement by assessing the needs of each individual student. She makes excellent use of all material, personnel, professional development opportunities and student resources.

One teacher remarked of the honoree, “With so many students, parents, and staff members to work with on a daily basis, it is evident that Dr. Duclos-Greenwood demands quality of service for herself and her staff. Her expectations for her school are clear and demanding, but she asks nothing of her staff that she would not do herself. She is driven by the fact that any project she undertakes must have positive and successful outcomes.”

Dr. Duclos-Greenwood stated, “Our academic gains are impressive every year. We are always over capacity in daily membership, but we have an outstanding achieving school and school community. We do not make excuses, we make a difference. We are a team that extends the instructional school day to maximize student achievement.”



Dr. Julie L. Duclos-Greenwood
Murrayville Elementary School
New Hanover County Schools



John A. Wall Jr.

North Garner Middle School
Wake County Public Schools

REGION 3 – NORTH CENTRAL REGION

John Wall's formative years in education were spent in the New York City Public School System. He majored in political science and graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1987. Later, he pursued a Master of Educational Administration degree at North Carolina State University and graduated in 1995 from the program. In his educational career, he served as a teacher in the New York Public Schools and in Wake County Schools. In 1995, he began his administrative career as an assistant principal at Zebulon Gifted and Talented Magnet Middle School and later in 1998, moved into the role as principal of the school. John has served in his present role as principal of North Garner Middle School since 2005.

Danny Barnes, Chief Area Superintendent, commented, "Mr. Wall believes in the team concept and understands that working collaboratively is the surest way to maintain focus and to support academic achievement. His no-nonsense approach is tempered with compassion and a sense of fairness, which has earned him the respect of students and staff alike."

According to a fellow colleague, "Mr. Wall truly knows that it takes an entire community to make a school successful. He is a type of leader who can keep the focus of his staff and greater community on the students and the learning process in order to help navigate the change process with greater ease. This is an important characteristic of a great leader."

Reflecting upon his tenure as President of the Wake County Division of Principals and Assistant Principals, Mr. Wall states, "A significant leadership accomplishment as president was the creation of yearly position papers to address the unique needs of schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. These position papers are still being utilized by the current executive board of the division to focus on how to improve schools and increase student achievement at all three levels."

REGION 4 – SANDHILLS/SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Fayetteville State University in 1994, Reneé Jackson began her career in education at E.E. Miller Elementary School in Fayetteville where she taught sixth grade. She then moved to California and taught fourth and fifth grade in the Hesperia Unified School District. Reneé later returned to Fayetteville in 2002 and began her administrative career at Bill Hefner Elementary School as an assistant principal for two years followed by one year at E.E. Smith High School. In 2004, she transitioned to a principalship at Raleigh Road Elementary School and in 2007, became the current principal of Lake Rim Elementary School. Reneé earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2009 from Fayetteville State University.

Kathy Kennedy, former Executive Director of Elementary Education in Cumberland County Schools shared, “Dr. Jackson is a tenacious leader who strives for excellence and has high expectations for those with whom she works. She constantly seeks better avenues to deliver services to children and to offer support to staff members. She leads by example and exemplifies the values she believes are important.”

Reneé’s former district superintendent remarked, “Dr. Jackson is very bright, articulate, well-read and well-versed. She is dedicated to her profession and to learning. She has shown the courage to make tough decisions that are in the best interest of children, demonstrating strong leadership qualities.”

“I am a firm believer that education is everybody’s business. This, in my judgment, means that activities, community interests and organizational memberships beyond your professional role as an educator have an impact on the children we serve,” said Dr. Jackson. “So, there is really nothing we do that is ‘outside’ of education. While every principal contributes to the community through the very nature of the job, I believe that more is required of us as ‘impact educators’ through the pursuit of community service.”



Dr. Reneé LaHuffman-Jackson

Lake Rim Elementary School
Cumberland County Schools



Chris Blice

Northwood High School
Chatham County Schools

REGION 5 – PIEDMONT-TRIAD/CENTRAL REGION

After graduating from Limestone College in 1980, Chris Blice went straight to graduate school at Morehead State University and earned a Masters in Music in 1981. He then went to work for three years at Fayetteville Street Christian School as a classroom teacher and band director. Chris then went to Nash-Rocky Mount as the band director at Nash Central Junior High and Northern Nash Senior High School from 1984-1998. Chris attended East Carolina University as a member of the Principal Fellows Program for the next two years and completed a Masters of School Administration in 2000.

He then became principal of George R. Edwards Middle School in 2002. One year later, he became the principal of Louisburg High School and stayed there from 2003 to 2008. In 2006, he was named Franklin County Principal of the Year and the Wachovia North Central Region POY. In 2008, Chris accepted his current position as principal of Northwood High School.

Superintendent Robert Logan shared, “Mr. Blice has led the school through a new school improvement planning process, implementation of a new teacher evaluation process, and a successful, timely completion of a 4.5 million dollar capital building project. Teachers, students, and parents alike are talking about the renewed atmosphere at the school.”

“Equally noteworthy is Mr. Blice’s ability to build consensus among stakeholders. In fact, it is clear that during Mr. Blice’s tenure at Northwood, he has quickly garnered the respect of his faculty staff and community, a feat that tends to take quite some time to accomplish. I continue to be amazed by watching Mr. Blice’s philosophy of fairness, firmness, and consistency at play on a daily basis,” adds Derrick Jordan, Director of Secondary Education.

Chris believes “administrators should hold clear expectations for all personnel including themselves. Putting these expectations in writing and giving them out to the staff is the first step, but it must be followed up with consistent action.”

REGION 6 – SOUTHWEST REGION

Kirby Oldham graduated from Edinboro University in 1973 and began his teaching career as a second-grade teacher at Friendship Central School in Western New York. He completed a Masters degree in School Administration in 1978 from St. Bonaventure University. In 1978, he began his administrative career as the assistant principal of the Canandaigua Elementary School in Canandaigua, NY. In 1983, he became the principal at Kendall Central School and in 1988, became the Director of Staff Development for Genesee-Wyoming BOCES in Batavia, New York. After 29 years of service in New York State Public School System, Oldham retired and in 2002 began a career as an assistant principal at Union Elementary School. From 2003 to 2008, Oldham was promoted to principal at Union Elementary School and in 2008 he accepted his current position as principal at G. E. Massey Elementary School.

Current superintendent Dr. David Martin stated, “Mr. Oldham is a superintendent’s principal and a principal’s principal. At G. E. Massey, he has established a culture of accountability and expectations with an overriding atmosphere that ‘we are in this together and can make a difference.’ He is an outstanding administrator and individual who leads with his heart.”

A third-grade teacher remarked, “Mr. Oldham is a visionary leader who works hard to pass on his vision to his staff. He then empowers them to help students meet the goals set for them.”

Oldham shared, “I found that you must be an instructional leader at the building level to have the greatest impact on student performance and to monitor and maintain consistency and accountability for all members of the learning community. I am already seeing significant improvements in student performance as a result of collaborative planning, focused interventions, weekly progress monitoring, and the ongoing flexible grouping.”



Kirby Oldham

G. E. Massey Elementary School
Lincoln County Schools



Todd Wirt

Mooresville High School
Mooresville Graded School District

REGION 7 – NORTHWEST REGION

Todd Wirt's educational career began in 1999 as a teacher at Woodlawn Middle School. In 2000, he obtained a Masters of School Administration degree from UNC-Greensboro and was named an assistant principal at Woodlawn Middle School. In 2002, he moved to Graham High School as an assistant principal and in 2004, was named principal of Hawfields Middle School. Two years later in 2006, Todd became principal of Graham High School and since 2007, has served as the current principal of Mooresville High School.

District superintendent, Dr. Mark Edwards, stated, "Mr. Wirt exemplifies all the leadership qualities and behaviors that research indicates is needed for successful leadership. As a result of his constant commitment to all students, daily attendance at Mooresville High School has increased to 97 percent and the suspension rate was reduced by 65 percent during the past year. This improvement is a direct result of the contagious enthusiasm of this leader who embraces school diversity, has remarkable vision, and is interested in the success of every student and staff member."

A colleague noted, "Mr. Wirt's true love and passion for learning and student achievement is so evident that the entire district personnel looks to him for wisdom, understanding, leadership, guidance and support. Another colleague stated, "He is not just an academic leader, he is an exemplar of character, integrity, and compassion to students and staff each day."

Mr. Wirt believes his career has been a "whirlwind of exciting opportunities for which he is extremely appreciative." Todd remarked, "I truly believe that to whom much is given, much is expected. It is my desire to give back through leadership within the school walls and out into the community."

REGION 8 – WESTERN REGION

Jan King received an Associate of Arts degree from Peace College in 1990, a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Carolina University in 1992, and a Masters of School Administration from Gardner Webb University in 2007. In her career, she has served as a classroom teacher, high school instructional coach, assistant principal and ultimately, as the current principal of Glenn Marlow Elementary School in Henderson County. In 2003, King also earned the designation of Teacher of the Year for Henderson County Public Schools.

Associate Superintendent David Jones stated, “Mrs. King is an effective leader because of her character, knowledge, and relationships. She has the ability to communicate and build relationships across a wide spectrum. It is clear that she is genuinely concerned about the well-being of her students and staff. She also is respected across the school district. Mrs. King gives people hope, and when you give them hope, you give them a future.”

Dr. Jan Webster, Director of the Western Region Education Service Alliance noted, “Creative, engaging, and innovative are strong attributes for Jan King. Whether in the classroom or as an administrator, I have seen her engage students and teachers with innovative practices with a definite focus on the curriculum.”

King shared, “I have spent seventeen years with Henderson County Schools – my entire professional career. The district has raised me in many ways and has invested in me, and I have always desired to give them a return on that investment.”



Jan King
Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School
Henderson County Schools



VANN PENNELL

2009 Wachovia Principal of the Year

Vann Pennell is the 2009 Wachovia Principal of the Year and the current principal of South Brunswick High School in Brunswick County. In the last year, he has received two additional accolades for his contributions to educational leadership. In November 2009, Pennell was inducted into the East Carolina Education Hall of Fame, and in May, 2010, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington will credit him with the Razor Walker Award. This distinction celebrates exceptional contributions toward the welfare of children and youth and is considered one of the more prominent and exclusive service awards intended to honor North Carolina citizens. Former recipients include Dr. James Goodnight and Ann Goodnight from SAS Institute, Judge Howard Manning, Senator Marc Basnight, and former State Board of Education Member Phillip Kirk.

During Pennell's impressive career in public education for almost 31 years, he has served with distinction as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent. His capacity for effective leadership is further evidenced by his term as the President of the North Carolina Athletic Association.

Those who work with Pennell marvel at his exuberance and applaud his positive influence on his school community. Superintendent Dr. Katie McGee said of him, "He is a POWERBALL – a machine consistently providing the energy, enthusiasm, stamina, and passion to move a school to excellence."

A fellow principal exclaimed, "Pennell is the quintessential leader; he fosters high expectations while maintaining compassionate relationships with students and faculty. He implements vast professional development opportunities, promotes technological advancement within the classroom, encourages dialogue among faculty members, and invites teachers and students to participate in collaborations. All of these endeavors create positive attitudes and a rigorous environment. He focuses on relationships that are productive and trusting. Whether it is with students, teachers, staff, or parents – his style of communication promotes a sense of comfort and closeness within the school. Mr. Pennell is completely devoted to all facets of his job and genuinely cares for those with whom he interacts."

When asked to reflect on the key to his success, Pennell humbly stated, "Any success I have experienced is due to the ongoing love and support of my wife and two sons."

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. The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation sponsors the award in conjunction with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the University of North Carolina School for Leadership Development/Principals' Executive Program.

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, and parents.

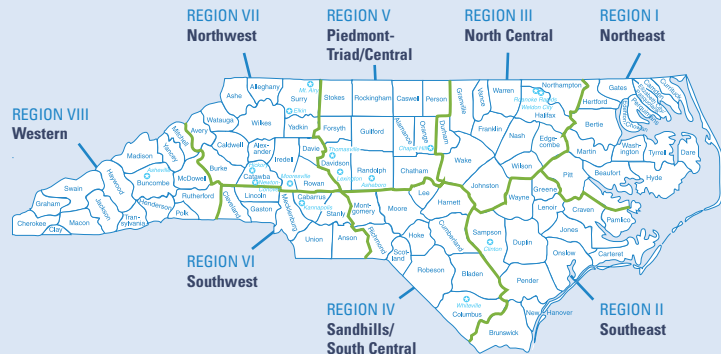
The statewide Wachovia Principal of the Year receives \$3,000 for personal or professional use, and his or her school receives \$3,000 for educational equipment, materials acquisition, or other uses designated by the principal. Each regional winner receives \$1,000 for personal use and \$1,000 for the school. Each local winner who participates in the regional interview process receives a \$150 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 three to four members, which typically include a principal, classroom teacher, Wachovia representative, and a representative from the Center for School Leadership Development.

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.





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PREVIOUS WINNERS

2009	Vann Pennell	South Brunswick High School, Brunswick County Schools
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
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.



Public Schools of North Carolina

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