



2012-2013 North Carolina TEACHER OF THE YEAR

May 3, 2012



ABOUT THE PROGRAM



For more than 50 years our nation has honored teachers with the National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the ING Foundation, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Since 1970, North Carolina has participated in this program recognizing outstanding teachers. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, along with its sponsors, administers the program at the state level.

In accordance with national guidelines, North Carolina chooses a candidate who is “dedicated and highly skilled, a candidate proven capable of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.” Because the State Teacher of the Year will be asked to travel, speak on behalf of education and demonstrate master teaching skills, the candidate must be poised, articulate, and energetic in order to meet the demanding responsibilities.

The program recognizes teachers at the school, local, regional and statewide levels. After Individuals are chosen to represent their respective school as Teacher of the Year, they advance to compete at the local district level. Once that selection has been made, district Teachers of the Year vie for one-of-eight North Carolina Regional Teacher of the Year honors. Simultaneously, representatives from the public charter schools are screened to determine the Charter School Teacher of the Year, and the charter school designee is the ninth finalist who moves to the final phase of the state selection process.

After a series of relevant screening activities, the State Teacher of the Year is chosen by a committee consisting of professional educators as well business and community leaders. The State Teacher of the Year and the other Regional Finalists form a collaborative network to provide ongoing professional development and support throughout the state on critical issues facing public education.

In the 40 years of the program in North Carolina, three State Teachers of the Year have become National winners. Four have become National Finalists and one has been inducted into the National Teachers’ Hall of Fame. Thirteen North Carolina Teachers of the Year have taught at the elementary school level, eight at the middle or junior high school level and twenty-one at the high school level.

LUNCHEON & AWARDS CEREMONY

May 3, 2012

WELCOME

Brandon Patterson

Assistant Director, Educator Recruitment and Development Division,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

GREETINGS

Dr. June Atkinson

State Superintendent, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

RECOGNITION OF THE SELECTION TEAM and REGIONAL FINALISTS

Brandon Patterson and Regional Education Facilitators/Office of Charter Schools

INVOCATION

Rob Jackson

2011 Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year

LUNCH

REMARKS

Mr. Wayne McDevitt

Vice Chairman, State Board of Education

Governor Beverly Perdue

Stephanie Caplan

Communications Director, North Carolina Center for International Understanding

Ginger Rutherford

Education Solutions Specialist, SMART Technologies

REFLECTIONS

Tyronna Hooker

2011-2012 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Alamance-Burlington Schools

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Dr. June Atkinson

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

2012-2013 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

CLOSING REMARKS

Brandon Patterson

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



FLOW AUTOMOTIVE, LLC

Don Flow, CEO, of Winston-Salem donated a one-year lease on a vehicle for the North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Support of the recognition program highlights the company's appreciation and commitment to public education and teachers across our state. The Department of Public Instruction greatly appreciates their generosity.



SMART TECHNOLOGIES

Over the last ten years SMART Technologies has honorably supported the State Teachers of the Year recognition programs across the United States through the Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) Program. SMART Technologies understands how important a seamless integration of technology products is to a successful learning environment for today's generation of educators and those to come in the future. In support of this vision, the company donates a comprehensive technology package to the North Carolina Teacher of the Year designee and a secondary package for the other eight regional finalists.



THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

The Center for International Understanding is an educational organization promoting global competence and awareness among current and future leaders in North Carolina. The Center is part of the University of North Carolina system, and since 1995, it has provided study abroad opportunities and school partnership programs to help educators bring the world to North Carolina classrooms. Through their global experiences, teachers from all grade levels and all subject areas bring a global perspective to the classroom and ignite an interest in communicating, cooperating and competing with the world. In all, more than 600 North Carolina teachers have traveled to 12 countries with The Center for International Understanding.



2012–2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SELECTION COMMITTEE

NC SENATOR HOWARD LEE

Founder and President,
*Howard N Lee Institute for Equity and Opportunity
in Education*
Former NC State Board of Education Chair

JAN RIGGSBEE, Ed.D.

Director and Chair, Program in Education
Duke University

JENNIFER FACCIOLINI

2010-2011 AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year
Sampson County Schools

REGINA JOHNSTON

2011-2012 North Carolina Charter School
Teacher of the Year
Chatham Community Charter

TAWANNAH ALLEN, Ed.D. – EX OFFICIO

Associate Professor, Department of
Educational Leadership
Fayetteville State University

TYRONNA HOOKER – EX OFFICIO

2011-2012 North Carolina Teacher of the Year
Alamance Burlington School System

In compliance with federal law, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to: Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer Academic Services and Instructional Support :: 6368 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6368 :: Telephone: (919) 807-3200 :: Fax: (919) 807-4065

2011-2012 TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM

**2011-2012
NC TEACHER OF THE YEAR**



Tyronna Hooker
*Piedmont/Triad Central Region
Alamance-Burlington Schools*



Suzie Sanders
Northeast Region
*Elizabeth City/Pasquotank
Public Schools*



Callie Smith
Southeast Region
Carteret County Schools



Ferdinand Cooper
North Central Region
Weldon City Schools



Marci Houseman
Sandhills/South Central
Region
Moore County Schools



Thomas Plecnik
Southwest Region
Gaston County Schools



Andy Blevins
Northwest Region
Catawba County Schools

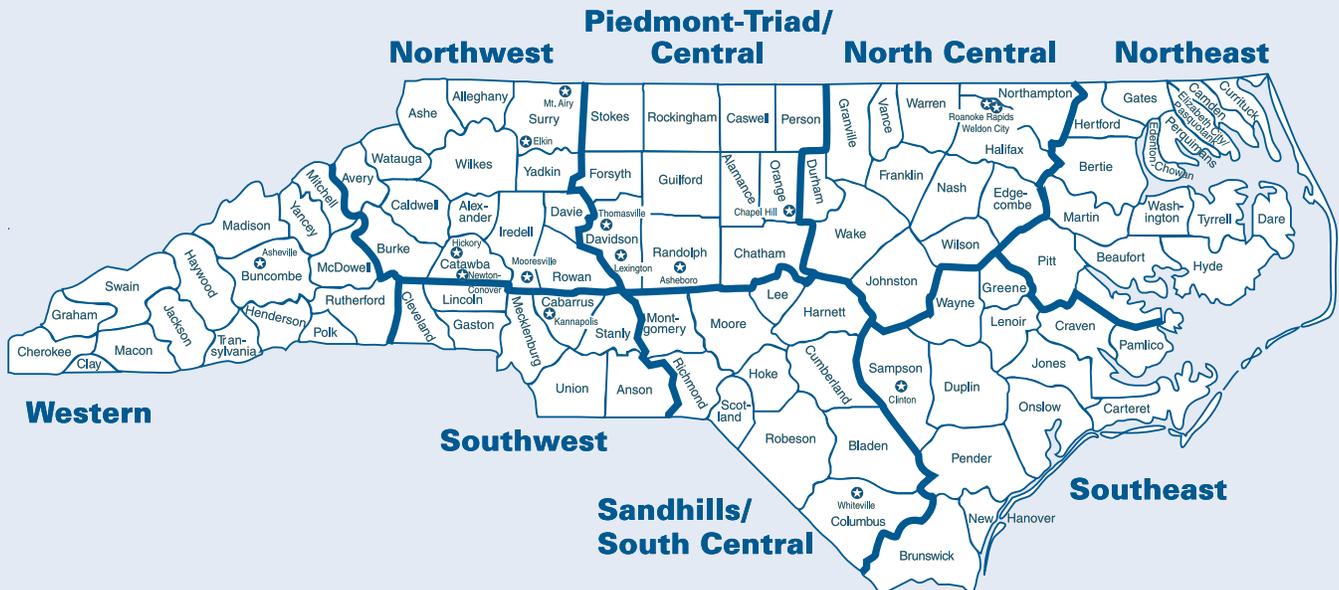


Eric Grant
Western Region
Buncombe County Schools



Regina Johnston
Charter Schools
Chatham Charter School

TEACHER OF THE YEAR REGIONAL MAP





LISA STAATS

NORTHEAST REGION

Beaufort County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grade 8 Teacher
Chocowinity Middle School
Chocowinity, NC

EXPERIENCE

15 years, 12 years in current position
Teacher, Beaufort County Schools,
North Carolina
Teacher, Pitt County Schools, North Carolina

EDUCATION

East Carolina University, M.A. in
Mathematics Education
East Carolina University, B.A. in
Elementary Education

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Northeast Region Teacher of the Year
2011-2012
Beaufort County Schools Teacher of the Year,
2011-2012
Chocowinity Middle School Teacher of the
Year, 2011-2012
Phi Delta Kappa Scholarship, 2009
HP Technology for Teaching Grant, 2004

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Council of Teachers of
Mathematics, ECU, 2010-present
National Council of Teachers of
Mathematics, 2009-2010
North Carolina Department of Public
Instruction, Division of Accountability
Services, 2004-present

I believe one of the things which “drew” me into education was my overall positive educational experience. I was not always the most gifted, but I worked hard and was soon able to compensate for my shortcomings. My teachers always praised me for my hard work and dedication. However, a very good friend of mine always struggled. We went to school from elementary through high school together. She never got the help or guidance she needed from her teachers. Often, she would come to my house or call me on the phone for help with assignments, especially Math. She would tell me I explained it better or easier than her teacher. I always wondered how I could do it “better.” I tucked this memory in the back of my head for years and eventually went into education with a plan to find that “thing” to help all students learn.

I will always advocate for my students. I have not met a student that could not learn or that I could not teach. I have taught students who had been taught Mathematics in an Exceptional Children (EC) Resource setting for three or four years before being placed in my inclusion class. This transition was a huge change for them, but they became active participants and eager learners. I have the advantage of looping with my EC students—an amazing gift because I get to see them grow exponentially in ability and self-confidence.

One might think getting my Master’s degree as a single parent while working full time was my biggest accomplishment, but it’s not. My greatest accomplishment wasn’t actually even mine, it was a student’s. I was fortunate to teach Math to one particular student from the sixth through the eighth grade. Initially, he was a struggling, with little confidence in his ability to learn. When he left eighth grade, however, he was one of my strongest students, and he helped other students who were struggling. In the end, the student passed the End of Grade Tests (EOGs) with a level 3 or 4, but the confidence he gained was priceless.

My rewards come yearly in different forms – watching my seventh graders mature into eighth graders, finding a sense of who they are as a student and as a person, or witnessing students tackle a Math problem with confidence. Some students “see the light” and grow double-digits on the EOG for the first time, or even better, pass for the first time. This year I received my most memorable reward of all. A student I taught for two years made a video of her and other students stating what they would miss from my class. I will cherish it forever!

Education is the stepping stone in equipping our students for success with 21st century skills. We as educators are the ones preparing the future of our nation, and it is our job to instill in them and their families the impact education will have on their future.

REGION 1 *Northeast*



Sheila Parker
Bertie County Schools



Cristie Fields
Camden County Schools



Jessica Balltzglier
*Edenton/Chowan County
Schools*



James Bryson
Currituck County Schools



Chavaleh Wetzel
Dare County Schools



Lori Lories
Gates County Schools



Justin Frederes
Hertford County Schools



Sherri Cox
Hyde County Schools



Patrick Herring IV
Martin County Schools



Amy Jo Spencer
*Elizabeth City/Pasquotank
County Schools*



Jason Griffin
Perquimans County Schools



Kurt Garner
Pitt County Schools



Donna Whitfield
Washington County Schools

"I have several beliefs about education and teaching. One of the most important is that education is a team sport. Without all the players (parents, students, all teachers, administration, support staff, etc.) working together, it is hard to be successful."

– LISA STAATS



MELISSA WARREN

SOUTHEAST REGION

Brunswick County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grades 9 and 10, English I and II
South Brunswick High
Southport, NC

EXPERIENCE

Communications 150 Effective Essay Writing
Axia College of University of Phoenix,
Online Campus

EDUCATION

Masters of Secondary Education/English,
December 2007
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Bachelor of Arts in English Education, May
2002
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2011-2012 Southeastern Regional Teacher of
the Year
2009 National Board Certification in
Adolescence and Young Adulthood English
Language Arts
Completion of the North Carolina
Initially Licensed Teacher Program
Graduated Magna Cum Laude UNCW 2002
and 2007
North Carolina Teaching Fellows Recipient

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Council of English Teachers

Both of my little brothers dropped out of high school. Although both are bright young men, they now face the tragedy of not being able to attain their life desires because they do not hold high school diplomas. Their stories are my motivation to teach. I hope to empower and retain bright students who may otherwise choose a negative path for their lives. The challenge I face as an educator is proving that school is relevant. To meet this challenge, I ask my students to write a short, narrative snapshot of their lives, to capture just one moment that has defined them.

Students read these stories to the class, and then we publish the narratives online and in a bound book. I have collected seven volumes of students' stories. Students have shared stories of victory, travel, injury, cancer, rape, death, divorce, and every other imaginable human experience. These stories are raw, bold, and honest. Some are incredibly uplifting, and some are sickeningly gut-wrenching. All are real. This year one student wrote, "I need to be better than them. I need to prove everyone that thinks, 'He'll be just like them' wrong. I can get an education, something my dad never had... I can choose to make the right decisions...I will be nothing like them, I am me."

Sharing, reflecting, and connecting allow students to see themselves clearly and with pride; it helps them understand and care about those around them. The guidance of a good teacher helps students find their humanity and establish their identity. I can honestly say that I wake-up every day and try my best to embody what I believe to be a good teacher. I wish to help my students grow as individuals, but first and foremost, I wish to protect and nurture what already exists in each student. As humans, we naturally yearn to communicate. I enhance that desire in students; I do not squash it.

The rewards I reap from this profession are boundless, but my favorites are the laughs from my students and the lessons they teach me. My students teach me how to be a strong, caring human. Through their writing and their struggles, they exemplify resilience. They give me hugs, high-fives, and smiles. They make it fun to wake up in the morning, and they are teaching me how to use my iPhone. I change and grow each day because of them, and I hope I can offer them a little of the love they bring to my life.

REGION 2

Southeast



Antonio Diaz
Carteret County Schools



Janet Carter
Clinton City Schools



Roneca Wallace
Craven County Schools



Cynthia Wallace
Duplin County Schools



Kimberly Taybron
Greene County Schools



Jacqueline Lanier
Jones County Schools



Melissa Southerland
Lenoir County Schools



Rachael Moser
New Hanover County Schools



Jennifer Hardy
Onslow County Schools



Cara Shelton
Pamlico County Schools



Suzanna Bolin
Pender County Schools



Andrea Bell
Sampson County Schools



Jennifer Tyndall
Wayne County Schools

"Education is the quest for identity. We are all ultimately the composition of our ideas and beliefs. If we as a society want to solve social problems, curb global warming, and work toward peace, we need citizens who know who they are, what they stand for, and how to create change."

– MELISSA WARREN



MALINDA PENNINGTON

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Wilson County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grades 6-8, EC Autism Inclusion
Toisnot Middle School
Wilson, NC

EXPERIENCE

18 years, 3 years in current position
EC Teacher, Wilson County Schools
Autism Consultant and Presenter
Adjunct Professor, Dept of Education, Barton College, Wilson, NC
EC Teacher, Wake County Public Schools
Autism Specialist, Metro-Nashville Public Schools, TN
EC Teacher, Metro-Nashville Public Schools, TN
Educational Consultant, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN
EC Teacher, Rochester Public Schools, MN
EC Teacher, Wake County Public Schools

EDUCATION

NC State University, Enrolled, Doctoral Program, Curriculum and Instruction, 2011
NC State University, Master of Education, Special Education, 1994
NC State University, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, 1991

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Wilson County Schools Teacher of the Year, 2011-2012
Teacher of Excellence Award, Wilson County Schools, Exceptional Children's Division NCDPI, 2011-2012
Toisnot Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2011-2012
Teaching Excellence Award, Cary Honor a Teacher Program, 2008
TEACCH Training Team Member, 2008
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Early Childhood through Young Adult/Exceptional Needs Specialist, 2007

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Education Association
North Carolina Association of Educators

During my college years, autism was still considered more an oddity for psychologists and not necessarily an issue for educators. As a senior psychology major, I was assigned a year-long internship in a classroom for children with autism. I was immediately fascinated by the unique qualities of the children's exceptionality. Trying to see the world through their eyes was exhilarating! After a few weeks, I had a life-changing experience. As I assisted a six-year-old with autism, he read the sentence, "The cookies are in the oven." He paused. He looked at the picture and excitedly said, "It says the cookies are in the oven and, look (pointing), the cookies are in the oven!" He had made his first connection in reading, setting upon a life-long path of learning. In addition, I had played a small part. I was hooked.

Every day since, my students are my reason for being a teacher. I love watching each child expand his or her skills and confidence as the child ventures into the school and larger community. Creating opportunities for their increased acceptance and involvement is my proudest achievement in education.

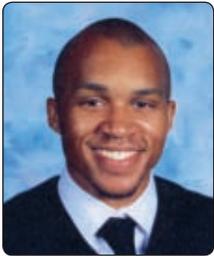
My role in this achievement is to be a facilitator, translator, and motivator. As a facilitator, I seek opportunities for my students to be accepted members of their school. I use their interests and strengths to pick the activity which will allow them to shine among their peers. Today, my students are active in student government, clubs, sports, the band, and more. As a translator, I strive to help both the child with autism understand the social world around him and the typical student understand the unique qualities of autism. We discover we are more alike than different! As a motivator, I assure my students each day that I believe in them, and I believe they are smart. I also make sure they know I will keep them safe.

My reward comes in seeing their pride and confidence grow. I love hearing a student say "I did it all by myself!" One of my cherished memories is of the day a student made the final transition from a self-contained setting to a full-inclusion class. As we carried his possessions down the hall to his new room, he looked up at me and said, "I'm a regular kid now!" Overcome with emotion, all I could say was, "Yes, you are!"

Outside of the classroom, I have discovered the excitement in helping others learn to work with autism. In the role of adjunct professor, I enjoy cultivating the passion and skills to teach children with special needs into pre-service teachers, hopefully affecting a lifetime of children. To pursue this ideal, I have enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Curriculum and Instruction at NC State University. As a trainer and presenter, I have had the honor to help teachers and their students in several states and internationally. Everywhere I have been, accents may change, but the children are the same. They respond to understanding hearts and open minds.

REGION 3

North Central



Jason Jowers
Durham County Schools



Susie Davis
Edgecombe County Schools



Brian McDowell
Franklin County Schools



Janita Allen
Granville County Schools



Tammy Hedgepeth
Halifax County Schools



Randy Parker
Johnston County Schools



Marie Mullins
Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools



Monté Freeman
Northampton County Schools



Ellen Bryant
Roanoke Rapids City Schools



Peggy Price
Vance County Schools



Stephanie Rhodes
Wake County Schools



Cheryl Sebrell
Warren County Schools



Michael Hawkins, Jr.
Weldon City Schools

"I love sharing my passion for teaching with others through collaboration and instruction. Helping other professionals increase their understanding of special needs gives me a thrill and opens doors for all children."

– MALINDA PENNINGTON



KARRIE DETWILER

SANDHILLS/SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Hoke County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grades 6-12 Art Teacher
J W Turlington Alternative School
Raeford, NC

EXPERIENCE

4 years ; 4 years in current position
Teacher, Hoke County Schools, Raeford, NC
Metalsmithing Instructor, ArtSpace, Carrboro, NC
English Instructor, Havad, Capinas, Brazil
Art Instructor, Goshen Parks, Goshen, Indiana

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Pembroke,
Masters in Art Education, Ongoing
East Carolina University, Non Degree Seeking
Art Education, 2010
Indiana University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2006

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2011-2012 Sandhills Regional Teacher of the Year
2011-2012 North Carolina Rookie Art Teacher of
the Year, NCAEA
2011-2012 Teacher of the Year, Hoke County
School District
2011-2012 Teacher of the Year, J.W. Turlington
Alternative School
2011 Hoke County Merit Award, Hoke County
Public Library
2009 & 2010 Partners in Education Mini-Grants
2011 Golden Apple Awards from Progress Energy
2009 "The Picturing America" National
Endowment for the Humanities Grant
2008 "Spotlight on Success Award" by the
Hoke County Board of Education

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Art Honors Society, Member since 1995
The Society of North American Goldsmiths,
Member since 2000
NC Turkey Festival, Board Member since 2011
Hoke County Schools, Cultural Arts Director
since 2011
North Carolina Art Education Association
(NCAEA), Member since 2008

The factors that influenced me to become a teacher began with my parents' and grandparents' influence. They were all artists, and this profoundly affected my outlook on life. They encouraged freedom in mind and spirit. Therefore, the world became my classroom, and my education from it was creative and exciting. My family's support throughout my schooling was imperative because I was identified as learning disabled in elementary school; this label followed me into my college experience. The loving environment of my family enabled me to develop a creative learning style along with an enthusiasm for education, which helped me overcome and compensate for my learning disability. My mother was especially passionate about education and broadening horizons. She was a driving force in my desire to excel. She wanted all of her children to go beyond the limitations of our surroundings. This goal greatly influenced me once I realized my calling to be an educator. It has influenced me to use education as a vehicle to the broader world.

While studying for my undergraduate degree, I taught "Art in the Park" for a year at Goshen Parks and Recreation in Indiana. This enriching experience encouraged me to consider art education as a major. During my junior year of study, I was able to participate in an independent study with a professor in Athens, Georgia. Dr. Farlowe's passion for teaching transcended the classroom. and it was infectious!

Afterward, I received a scholarship that allowed me to study fine arts abroad in Brazil. This experience opened my eyes to other rich cultures and gave me a renewed appreciation for my own. While there, I taught English as a Second Language for two years. This experience addressed my greatest fears and struggles, as reading and writing were my learning disabilities. I overcame those fears and felt confident in my ability to impart knowledge—even English! Yet, my passion lies in the arts, and I found it while teaching a metal-smithing class to adult learners in Carrboro, N.C. After that, I was hooked! My childhood, my college experience, and my post-graduate teaching led me to seek education as a permanent adventure, one that I have embraced fully and have never regretted!

REGION 4

Sandhills/South Central



Elizabeth Cole
Bladen County Schools



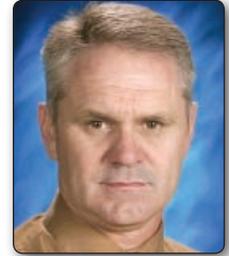
Nicky Hobbs
Columbus County Schools



Dewana Holt
Cumberland County Schools



Andy Cole
Harnett County Schools



Vincent Pienaar
Lee County Schools



Mary Gilman
Montgomery County Schools



Tracy Metcalf
Moore County Schools



Mark Burr
Richmond County Schools



Jason Bullock
Robeson County Schools



Katie Clark
Scotland County Schools



Pamela Sutton
Whiteville City Schools

"...The classroom does not begin nor does it end with the four walls. Teachers must make a conscious effort to utilize the community for authentic learning experiences. If it truly takes a village to raise a child, then it must take a whole community to educate one."

– KARRIE DETWILER



JENNIFER ARBERG

PIEDMONT-TRIAD/CENTRAL REGION
Guilford County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grade 6 Math Teacher
Kiser Middle School
Greensboro, NC

EXPERIENCE

16 years; 5 years in current position
Teacher, Guilford County Schools,
2007-present
Teacher, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles,
2005-2007
Teacher, Lee County Schools, 1996-2005

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Greensboro,
Masters of Education, Secondary Math
University of North Carolina at Charlotte,
Graduate Certificate, Gifted Education
Appalachian State University, Bachelor of
Arts, Elementary Education

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2012 Piedmont-Triad Central Region Teacher
of the Year
2012 Guilford County Teacher of the Year
2012 Guilford County Middle School Teacher
of the Year
2011 Teacher of the Year, Kiser Middle School
2009 Teacher of the Year, Kiser Middle School
2007 Middle School Teacher of the Year,
International School of Curacao
2004 Fulbright Memorial Fund Award
recipient, Japan
2003 Lee County NCAGT (Academically and
Intellectually Gifted) Teacher of the Year
2001 Teacher of the Year, Tramway
Elementary, Sanford, NC

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Council for Teachers of
Mathematics
National Council for Teachers of Mathematics

Teaching is a journey that should not be embarked upon lightly. It requires you to be not only an educator, but sometimes a counselor, a nurse, a parent, a mind-reader, and a therapist. I love every minute of it! I love the unpredictability that each day brings, and the fact that no two days are ever alike. Deep down, I always knew I would become a teacher. I was the kid who had school for her stuffed animals and eagerly asked for extra homework as a kindergartener. My mother loves to embarrass me by sharing my childhood stories of how I would only agree to clean my room if she would make me math worksheets as a reward. Bribery with math worksheets? I was destined to become a math teacher.

There are many aspects of teaching that I love. Obviously, I love the curriculum, being a self-proclaimed math geek. In addition, I love the sarcasm and humor that go along with teaching middle school students. So many days I laugh out loud at my job; how many people are lucky enough to say that? One of my favorite tasks as an educator, however, is that of trying to instill a genuine love of learning in my students. I want them to love math so much that they beg for worksheets as a reward when they clean their room. I want them to understand that learning is not just something that is done in the classroom and is finished when you graduate; rather, it is a way to approach life.

When I was in graduate school, I would share stories with my students about staying up late to work on a paper, struggling on a difficult assignment, or doing my dance of joy when I got a good grade on a test. I want them to see that learning is something you will always be doing. When I completed my degree, my students were so excited for me. They assumed I would be done with school, and were quite surprised when a few weeks later I announced that I would be teaching part-time at the university, and I was getting ready for a whole new set of challenges. I told them the lesson here is that the learning never stops. Sometimes it takes on new forms and pushes us in new directions, but learning is a continuous process. If I can get my students to embrace that concept, or possibly to want to clean their room for math worksheets, then I feel it would be my greatest accomplishment.

REGION 5

Piedmont-Triad/Central



Molly Ellington
Alamance-Burlington Schools



Keri Lamb
Asheboro City Schools



Emily Smith
Caswell County Schools



Patricia Berge
*Chapel Hill-Carrboro
City Schools*



Neal Morgan
Chatham County Schools



Laura Clodfelter
Davidson County Schools



Melonie Rector
Lexington City Schools



Christopher Hansen
Orange County Schools



Allison Bowers
Person County Schools



Addie Snotherly
Randolph County Schools



Chrystal Thomas
Rockingham County Schools



Jennifer Via
Stokes County Schools



Jewell Beasley
Thomasville City Schools



Iris Mudd
*Winston Salem/Forsyth
County Schools*

"Keeping our classrooms full of rigorous and relevant curriculum is the only way we will prepare our students for the challenges they face and the only way that we can change the public perception of the effectiveness of public education."

– JENNIFER ARBERG



LENORA CRABTREE

SOUTHWEST REGION

Gaston County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

**Grades 10-12, AP Biology, Honors
Anatomy and Physiology, Honors
Research Methods**

**Forestview High School
Gastonia, NC**

EXPERIENCE

15 Years; 8 years in current position
Gaston County Schools, Forestview High
School, 2004-Present, Biology (all levels),
Chemistry and Honors Chemistry
Gaston Christian School, 1997-2004
Biology (all levels), Chemistry and Honors
Chemistry, Physical Science

EDUCATION

Lateral Entry Coursework Completed,
Teaching License Received, 2007
Vanderbilt Medical School, 1986-1987
Vanderbilt University, Bachelor of Science,
Molecular Biology, Graduated magna cum
laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1981-1985

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2012 Southwest Region Teacher of the Year
2011 Gaston County Teacher of the Year
2011 Gaston County Jaycees "Distinguished
Educator of the Year"
2011 National Association of Biology Teachers
"Kim Foglia Distinguished Service" Award,
Nominee
2010-2011 Forestview High School Teacher of
the Year
2009 Time Warner Cable "Star Teacher"
Award
2006 Education Foundation Grant Winner,
"Honey I Shrank the Classroom"

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Biology Teachers
National Science Teacher Association
Common Core Standards – Gaston County
Science Teachers Leadership Team

We call them "nerd moments," and while my students complain about them, I know they secretly love them. "I can't go outside without seeing carbon dioxide molecules entering leaves!" "When I see flowers, I don't stop and smell them, I look at the parts!" "When I eat a meal, I mentally digest every molecule." These humorous statements are some of my greatest rewards as a teacher. They are evidence that I am making a difference!

The earliest memory that I have of wanting to be a teacher occurred in an unlikely place. I was a student at Vanderbilt Medical School absorbed in a lecture about being an effective physician. "Increasing patient compliance is the most important thing you can do to improve the health of your patients. If the patient does not understand and follow your recommendations, it is as if they never met you." The professor's words struck a deep chord as I realized the most important task of a medical provider is to teach patients to do what is best for their personal health in such a way that encourages change. In that moment, I resolved to be a physician who is an effective teacher of her patients. Life, however, took a different turn. Following the birth of three sons, I chose to become a classroom teacher. Each day I seek to educate my students and equip them to make decisions which result in the most positive outcome for their lives.

True learning happens when students have an opportunity to actively explore difficult concepts. My students and I build models of molecules and cells to understand life at the "molecular" level. After constructing a larger than life model of the digestive tract, we act out the process of digestion, "consuming" chains of students that represent food molecules. Through journaling, future scientists explore the challenges faced by parents of children with genetic disorders. While working in collaborative groups, my future educators practice their own gift of teaching as they strive to master challenging curriculum with a team of peers. I love to connect with students outside of the classroom by participating in the activities they enjoy. My presence at the cross country finish line, on the basketball sidelines, or at musical performances demonstrates to my students that I value what they value, and as a result, positive things happen in the classroom.

While the "nerd moments" my students complain about are humorous, I am aware that they underlie a powerful phenomenon. Knowing that trees take in carbon dioxide affects how you think about deforestation and climate change. Understanding that you truly are what you eat enables you to make healthy decisions and good food choices. The lessons my students and I learn together can impact lifestyle choices, career paths, and the decisions of future policy makers and leaders. Effective teaching transforms lives and improves our community. I am grateful to be growing into the teacher I hoped to become as a medical student twenty-five years ago.

REGION 6

Southwest



Kevin Adams
Anson County Schools



Janelle Patterson
Cabarrus County Schools



Karen Meadows
*Charlotte-Mecklenburg
Schools*



Jennifer Bumgardner
Cleveland County Schools



Krista Chapman
Kannapolis City Schools



Regina Hovis
Lincoln County Schools



Ellen Blue
Stanly County Schools



Maya Schultz
Union County Schools

“Technology, field trips, projects and presentations can enhance the learner’s experience. True teaching, however, occurs when learning happens. It involves helping students develop new understanding that alters the way they view the world and results in change.”

– LENORA CRABTREE



DARCY GRIMES

NORTHWEST REGION

Watauga County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grade 3 Teacher
Bethel Elementary School
Sugar Grove, NC

EXPERIENCE

5 years, 2 years in current position
Watauga County Schools, Bethel Elementary
2009-Present
Wilkes County Schools, Moravian Falls
Elementary 2006-2009

EDUCATION

Appalachian State University
Currently enrolled in the Instructional
Technology MA program, projected
graduation date May 2013
Add on licensure Middle Grades 6-9 Language
Arts/Social Studies 2009
BS in Elementary Education, 2002-2006

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

Northwest NC Regional Teacher of the Year
2011-2012
Watauga County Schools Teacher of the Year
2011-2012
Bethel Elementary School Teacher of the Year
2011-2012
Watauga Education Foundation Grant
Recipient 2009-2011
NC Fruits and Vegetables Grant School
Recipient 2011
Intel Master Teacher 2009

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Reading Association
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

"Is teaching hard?" Lily, one of my third grade students, asked me last week. "Well," I said,

"For me teaching is exciting! I look forward to coming to school every day to build relationships with our class. I love learning with you and making each day exciting and fun. Yes, teaching can take up a lot of time creating a learner centered classroom, but all of the time I spend is worth it when I see the excitement for learning on your faces. To me teaching doesn't feel hard. I love what I do every day and it doesn't feel like work."

Lily then looked at me and said, "When I become a teacher, I hope I'm like you, and it doesn't feel hard for me either."

My philosophy of teaching is similar to my answer to Lily's question. In order to be an outstanding teacher, I have to show my enthusiasm for learning to my students through humor, song, dance, and games. I must create relationships and personal connections with each child in my classroom. I feel it is a necessity to set high standards for all of my students, no matter their background and past experiences, so they will be working at their highest potential. But most of all, I want all of my students to be life-long learners and global citizens who can compete in this growing technological society.

My teaching style is energetic, structured, motivating, and creative. Like most teachers, I use assessments to see how my students are achieving, but the way I teach the material is unique. I feel that teaching today is not only about getting the students ready for a test, but instead preparing them for their future. In order to accomplish this goal, I have given my students many opportunities to work in collaborative groups on project-based assignments. My students have used Web 2.0 tools to work collaboratively with classrooms in five different states and abroad in four different countries. These technological opportunities allow my students who live in a very rural area to have experiences working with other students around the world.

The rewards I receive from being a teacher are incredible. Many are attained in the classroom. Seeing my students squirm excitedly in their seats as they use Skype to complete a project with another class from across the world, the smiles on their faces when they use the response "clickers" to review concepts, and the joy in their hearts which jumps off the paper from their stories are all incredible. Still, other rewards are found outside of the classroom. The waves I receive from the playing field or the sidelines at a basketball game, the smiles I am flashed from the stage at a dance recital, and the hugs I am greeted with at the finish line after my students have just finished their first 5k are simply amazing. I could not imagine giving up all of these rewards or working in another profession. I love learning. I love inspiring. I love teaching.

REGION 7

Northwest



Amy Hall
Alexander County Schools



Tammy Marion
Alleghany County Schools



Sarah Tugman
Ashe County Schools



Michelle Burnop
Avery County Schools



Sarena Fuller
Burke County Schools



Ann Matthews
Caldwell County Schools



Lorie Fox
Catawba County Schools



Rebecca Marion
Davie County Schools



Tonya Smith
Elkin City Schools



Rachael Moyer
Hickory Public Schools



Dwayne Troutman
Iredell-Statesville Schools



Cheryl Dortch
*Mooreville Graded
School District*



Olivia Byerly
Mount Airy City Schools



Margaret Daniels
Newton-Conover City Schools



Theresa Pierce
Rowan-Salisbury Schools



Jonathan Amos
Surry County Schools



Reuellyn Thomas
Wilkes County Schools



Cynthia Stone
Yadkin County Schools

"To keep our students competitive in the 21st century global economy, teachers and parents must demand that students use strategic thinking on everyday problems because standardized thinking and standardized problems can be solved anywhere in the world."

– DARCY GRIMES



EDITH CALLAHAN

WESTERN REGION

Jackson County Schools

ASSIGNMENT

Grades 9-12, Career Technical Education (CTE), Health Occupations

**Smoky Mountain High
Sylva, NC**

EXPERIENCE

5 years; 5 years in current position
Health Occupations Educator Grades 9th-12th

EDUCATION

North Carolina State University, Lateral Entry Teaching Certificate, 2009

University of Maryland Medical School, Master in Physical Therapy, 2004

Towson State University, Bachelors of Science in Sports Medicine, 1996

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2011 North Carolina New Teacher of the Year for Career and Technical Education

2011 District 8 New Teacher of the Year for Career and Technical Education

2011-2012 Western Region Teacher of the Year

2011-2012 Jackson County Teacher of the Year

2011-2012 Smoky Mountain High Teacher of the Year

2010, 2011, 2012 Gold Star Advisor for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

2010, 2011, 2012 Gold Star Chapter for Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

2012 Feature of the Week on WLOS and Channel 13 News: Never Stop Learning

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
NC District 8 HOSA Board Representative (NC HOSA Board)

Member, North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education (NCACTE)

Member, North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE)

Member, National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA)

My commitment to my students and the community is guided by my favorite quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world," from Gandhi. Change can be brought about through education and service, and has the greatest positive outcome when performed with passion and dedication. I have been fortunate enough to be employed at Smoky Mountain High School (SMHS) for five years as a Health Occupations Educator. In my five years, I have taught Advanced Studies in Health Occupation, Medical Sciences I, Health Sciences II, Allied Health Sciences I, Biomedical Technology, and Health Team Relations. As a clinical coordinator and partner with MedWest Harris Health System and other community health care professionals, I have tried to provide relevant clinical experiences for my students.

At SMHS, I oversee the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) program and my students have had the wonderful opportunity to compete at the regional, state, and national level for six consecutive years. They also have raised thousands of dollars in support of The Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and Autism Speaks.

At HOSA's State Leadership Conference in March, 2012, SMHS placed in the top ten in Biomedical Debate and Nursing Assisting. Additionally, in March 2011, SMHS placed in the top ten in the following categories: Emergency Technician, Biomedical Debate, Physical Therapy, and Forensic Science. SMHS HOSA received an award for Outstanding HOSA Chapter and recognition for participation in three or more American Red Cross blood drives per year.

With guidance from the school and community, my students have achieved success on many fronts. For the past two years, they have participated in the Asheville Citizen-Times essay contest on ethical issues. In March, 2011, they placed first and were recognized at a luncheon sponsored by Junior Achievement. In 2009, my Medical Science I class received the highest Vocational Competency Achievement Tracking System (VoCATS) exam scores in the state's Western Region.

I believe these program successes are a result of three important factors: consistency, preparation, and motivation. Consistency provides a positive and safe learning environment where students can grow through failures, as well as successes. Preparation allows students to understand the importance of being able to think critically and creatively with confidence in a variety of situations. Motivation encourages students to take advantage of opportunities for relevant experiences such as competitions, clinical rotations, and community service, all of which are important to building good leadership and communication skills.

I encourage all students to get involved in their community because the community provides an exciting and relevant support to education. Positive, sustainable change comes from within. Therefore, I encourage my students to be proud of their accomplishments, but to also learn from their failures. I also implore them to not only let their community support their education, but to also let their education inspire their community. To that end, my students and my community are my inspiration as an educator and citizen of western North Carolina. To them I say, "Thank you!"

REGION 8 Western



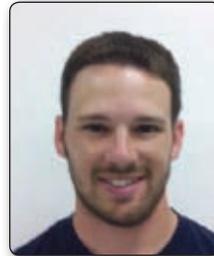
Victoria Angelotti
Asheville City Schools



Chris Brown
Buncombe County Schools



Elizabeth Gilbert
Cherokee County Schools



Zachary Moss
Clay County Schools



Kevin White
Graham County Schools



Stephen Parris
Haywood County Schools



Joe Shook
Henderson County Schools



Vickie Sutton
Macon County Schools



Tina Thorpe
Madison County Schools



Gregory Franklin
Mitchell County Schools



Susan McRostie
Polk County Schools



Robyn Elliott
Rutherford County Schools



Dora May
Swain County Schools



Amanda O'Shields
Transylvania County Schools



Jodi Antinori
Yancey County Schools

"I teach as I was taught—with passion for positive change, with a dedication to provide laughter and patience in every situation, and allow students to grow into delightful, respectful, citizens of our local as well as global community."

— EDITH CALLAHAN



JENNIFER CLAYTON

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Forsyth Academy

ASSIGNMENT

Grade 3 Teacher
Forsyth Academy
Winston-Salem, NC

EXPERIENCE

2007-Present, Grade 3 Teacher, Forsyth Academy – National Heritage Academies, Winston-Salem, NC

2003-2007 Grade 2 Teacher, Cross Creek Charter Academy – National Heritage Academies, Byron Center, MI

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Post Masters Certification in School Administration, Fall 2010-Present

Western Michigan University, Masters Degree in Elementary Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, Winter 2003-June 2007

Grand Valley State University, Bachelor of Science with Group Social Studies and Elementary Education Certification, State of Michigan Education Certification in K-8 and Social Studies, Winter 1999-December 2002

RECOGNITIONS/AWARDS

2010-2011 Forsyth Academy Teacher of the Year

2012-2013 North Carolina Charter School Teacher of the Year

The experience an individual has in the classroom many times will shape one's opinion and attitude about education. My educational experiences were filled with average teachers who expected average results from students. Classroom instruction was delivered in one way—worksheets were given and assessments measured. Average was acceptable. This educational community recognized only those that met the average set of standards or excelled athletically. However, I was not average and did not want to be average. Therefore, I did not fit the traditional expectations of mediocrity.

As an elementary and middle school student, I did not find meaning in the instructional content presented to me. The days were long and recess was something I looked forward to each day. As I progressed through school, my experiences in the classroom mirrored one another. The only thing that changed was the teacher who was put before me.

I felt a yearning to make a difference in the educational system as I knew there was something else and more that could be done. I wanted to make sure that kids had an above average educational experience. I wanted to make learning come alive. More importantly, I wanted to make sure that the rich experiences, both academically and non-academically, which my family and friends provided me were also available to other students.

It has been my mission since to provide a quality education to all students who enter my classroom. I believe a quality education has the ability to enhance an individual's knowledge and character. It opens doors by creating opportunities and experiences that may not have otherwise been available to an individual. Quality classrooms are not created by chance. Instead, quality classrooms happen when an educator has a set of core beliefs and values about the students they are serving. It involves more than just having a curriculum to teach or goals to reach. Ultimately, it is a set of beliefs that can be articulated and carried out on a daily basis.

The classroom in which I teach has been designed to be an inviting place for students to learn academic and social skills. I have created a structured environment where all students know what is expected of them. Working together with support staff, parents, and the community, I strive to motivate students in a variety of ways to ensure that all students are engaged and learning effectively.

It is critical that each child is challenged and continually growing. As students learn and grow, they will be able to reap the rewards as they open doors to places they have never been. Seeing students begin to take ownership of their learning journey in and out of the classroom can also be a fulfilling part of being an educator. Outstanding teachers truly help create the learning pallet that allows a student to make a masterpiece which will always be changing throughout his/her lifetime.

CHARTER SCHOOLS



Hollis Brown
ArtSpace Charter School



Stacey Marjoram
Charter Day School



Kay D. Lopossay
Chatham Charter



Shavonda Scales-Voorluis
East Wake Academy



Marni Frugé
Evergreen Community Charter



Charita M. Justice
Lake Norman Charter



Megan Wright
Roxboro Community School



Larry Frederick
Socrates Academy



Winnie Lameck
Southern Wake Academy



Caroline M. Brown
Union Academy



Clay Wooldridge
Voyager Academy

"A set of strong core beliefs make the difference between an average teacher and an outstanding teacher. As an educator, I believe that all students can and will achieve their greatest potential when a teacher is outstanding."

– JENNIFER CLAYTON

NC TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 1970-2011

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"**