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Greene County Schools congratulates its Teachers of the Year

GREENSBORO – Five deserving teachers were selected by their peers last week to represent their school as its Teacher of the Year.

Representing Corry Boston Jackson Preschool is Jessica Harris.

Harris, a graduate of Greene Taliaferro Comprehensive High School, received both her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Piedmont College.

She is a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) and a supporter of the American Cancer Society and March of Dimes. She attends Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church.

Harris enjoys teaching her students and helping them realize their potential.

"The most rewarding part of being a teacher is to see a child's face full of excitement when he or she has mastered a new skill. That joy is enough to last a lifetime," said Harris.

Twila Moore was chosen as Greensboro Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Moore is a member of PAGE and the GES Staff Development committee. She has also been involved with several community service organizations for the last few years. These organizations include being a volunteer at the Homeless Shelter in Athens, a volunteer for the Special Olympics, a volunteer at the Athens Pregnancy Center and a member of a Breast Cancer Awareness Committee. She is currently a member of the Relay for Life committee and the School Council committee. She attends Prince Avenue Baptist Church.

According to Moore, her main focus is and always will be the students who she teaches.

"Parents have trusted me with their most precious possession, and the administration has given me the job to teach these students academically, help build character and confidence and become a better citizen for the future," Moore said.

Selected to represent Union Point Elementary School is Veronica Ward.



Ward received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Growth and Learning – Elementary from Tusculum College in December 2006 and her Master's Degree in Education from Troy University in December 2009.

Her service activities include working with Relay for Life and Meals on Wheels.

Ward said she became a teacher because of the wonderful teachers she has encountered in her life.

"I show my students that the sky is the limit and achievements come through hard work and motivation," Ward said.

Praising the work of teachers at UPE and throughout the district, Ward added, "we strive for the best from our students in all academic areas, and through hands on opportunities and engaging lessons, our main goal is for our students to learn and retain new skills."

Kevin Strickland, Carson Middle School Teacher of the Year, has taught at the middle school for 11 years.

Strickland earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education from Georgia College in 1992. He later received his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Troy University in 2003. Strickland is certified in Technology Education and Business and Computer Science Education.

He is currently a member of PAGE, CTAE (Career, Technical and Agriculture Educators) and the Georgia Association of Career and Technical Educators

(GACTE). He serves as the team leader for the Connections team at CMS as well as Athletic Director and Hard Coach of the CMS football team.

Strickland notes the changes that have taken place at CMS over the last decade.

"The administration, the teachers and the students all deserve the credit for where Carson Middle School is now; how far we have come; and how much further we will go," he said.

Renee Nesbitt-Evans was selected as Greene County High School Teacher of the Year.

Evans has a Masters of Art Degree in Special Education General Curriculum, an Initial Teaching Certificate in Special Education Emotional Behavior Disorders, A Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology, and Associates Degree in Social Science and a P-5 Math Endorsement.

She is a member of PAGE and an active member of Boswell Chapel Baptist Church, where she serves on the Executive Board and Teacher's Ministry. She was also chairperson of the church's Youth Scholarship committee and leader of the Intercessory Prayer Ministry.

Evans is an avid believer that teachers are an integral part of a student's life.

"I believe a teacher is someone who is a guide or facilitator in the processes of learning," Evans said.

She also believes that one person can make a difference.

"The students of Greene County High School have enabled me to reach one of my personal goals in life – to make a difference in someone's life," she said.

All five teachers will be recognized on Monday at 6 p.m. during the Board of Education monthly work session. The system-wide Teacher of the Year will also be announced during the work session.

Each teacher competed for the system-wide Teacher of the Year title by participating in an interview process and classroom observation.

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