

The Herald - Journal

GREENSBORO, GA 30642, GREENE COUNTY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009

Greene County School System Celebrates 2009-2010 Teachers Of The Year™



Representing the five schools in the Greene County School System, this year's individual "Teacher of the Year" honors went to, L-R: Mindy Blankenship, Carson Middle School, Jennifer Hubbard, Union Point Elementary, Tanisha Wright, Greene County Preschool, Rotonya Rhodes, Greene County High School and Priscilla Jones, Greensboro Elementary School.

With fall comes the announcement of "Teachers of the Year" and the Greene County Board of Education recognized five educators at their Board Meeting on Monday evening.

Chosen by their peers, this elite group will undergo intense interviews as part of the selection process in naming the overall district's "Teacher of the Year".

Representing Greene County High School is Rotonya Rhodes. Rotonya, a native of Greene County, is a graduate of Greene-Taliaferro Comprehensive High School and has been teaching high school in Greene County for the past five years. Miss Rhodes received both a Bachelor of Arts in History (2004) and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Social Studies, (2005) from Georgia College & State University.

She teaches 10th and 12th grade social studies at the high school and serves as chair of the GCHS social studies department. She is the co-advisor to the Student Government Association and is the graduation coordinator. Other activities include serving on the prom committee and working as a cooperating teacher for undergraduate students from the University of Georgia. Membership in professional organizations includes the National Council for the Social Studies and the Professional Association for Georgia Educators.

Rotonya's service activities include Relay for Life and completing volunteer work with her local church. Rotonya is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Social Studies education at the University of Georgia. She is the daughter of Marion and Rosa Rhodes of Greensboro.

Mindy Blankenship received the honor of representing Anita White Carson Middle School as their "Teacher of the Year".

This is her second year of teaching at Carson Middle School. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Agriculture from Ferrum College, Ferrum, Virginia and a Master of Education Degree from Brenau University, Gainesville, Georgia. In June, 2005 she completed requirements for her Educational Specialist with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from Piedmont College, Athens, Georgia. She holds a Georgia Teaching Certificate T-6 in Middle Grades Education; is certified to teach Language Arts, Science, and Social Sciences in grades 4-8. She also holds the Gifted Endorsement and the Teacher Support Specialist certification.

Mindy is in her 20th year teaching in Georgia middle schools and enjoying her second year at CMS. She is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Carson Middle School PTSO.

Priscilla Jones was chosen as "Teacher of the Year" for Greensboro Elementary School. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Roswell Lawrence Sr. and a native of Greene County. Priscilla is married to McGarret Jones and they are the proud parents of two sons, Rodney and Malik. She is the daughter-in-law of Pauline Woodruff.

Mrs. Jones is a 1989 graduate of Greene-Taliaferro Comprehensive High School. Priscilla's secondary educational background consists of earning a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Piedmont College. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree from Nova University.

During her tenure, she has served on several committees within the school district. Those committees include coaching cheerleader for Greene County High School, Coordinator for GES Stepper and a active member Greensboro Elementary PTA where she was

chosen as runner up for Superior Teacher's Award 2008-09 school year.

Within her community, she actively serves as a faithful member at Zion Wrightsville Baptist Church. Priscilla believes in always putting God first. Her passion to teach extends beyond the confines of the school. She serves as the President of Zion Wrightsville Youth Department. The Youth Department has reached new heights under her leadership by maximizing each child's full potential, while teaching good morals and ethics.

Priscilla is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc where she serves as secretary. She is also a member of the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) and the National Education Association (NEA), and Georgia High School Association (GHS). Her mission is to experience life through...teaching others.

Chosen by her peers at Union Point Elementary is Jennifer Hubbard.

She is a native of Greene County and a proud graduate of Greene Taliaferro Comprehensive High School. Jennifer received her Bachelor's Degree from Georgia College & State University; and Master's degree from Piedmont College. She is a Teacher Support Specialist and am currently working on a gifted endorsement.

Mrs. Hubbard is the daughter of Kenneth and Miriam Davenport of White Plains and currently lives in Union Point with her husband, Scot, and two boys, Caleb and Kolbe, both of whom attend Union Point Elementary.

This is Jennifer's fourth year at Union Point Elementary teaching 4th grade. Even though her work at Union Point Elementary is just beginning, this is her 12th year teaching in the Greene County School System. Previously Jennifer was a member of the faculty at

Greene County Preschool for eight years.

Rounding out this group as the "Teacher of the Year", representing the littlest students at Greene County Preschool, is Tanisha Wright.

Tanisha is embarking on her second year as a PreK teacher at Greensboro Elementary School. Her career in education began as a Lead Teacher for Head Start in Greene County, now owned and operated by YMCA. Her studies began at Piedmont College where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education in 2008. Tanisha received her Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education in the summer of 2009 from Piedmont College. She is married to Vincent Wright and they have three sons, D'ondre-16, E'vonte-12, and Kamron-6.

She is a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), a Piedmont College Alumni, and a member of the Torch Club, an honor society which recognizes distinguished women of two or four year colleges. She is also a member of the Antioch Baptist Church where I am very active. Serving as secretary for Sunday School, President of the Homecoming Committee, Secretary of the Women's Ministry group, teacher for Vacation Bible School and a proud advocate for and participator of gathering and distributing food to the needy in my community.

Tanisha is an alumna of the Class of 1995 of Greene Taliaferro Comprehensive High School. She is the daughter of James E. Brown and Angel Patrick and the daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wright.

Congratulations to all of these fine teachers!