



Education Consumers Foundation

Media Contact:
Brett Pawlowski,
DeHavilland Associates
704-604-7647 (cell)
brett@dehavillandassociates.com

IT'S A LEADERSHIP THING: HONORING 18 PRINCIPALS WHO MAKE LEARNING HAPPEN *Students make remarkable learning gains in 18 Tennessee schools*

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Nashville, TN (May 4, 2009) – While great teachers may get well-deserved credit for helping students reach their academic potential, principals are often the unsung heroes of education, working behind the scenes to set ambitious goals and doing everything they can to help their teachers and students achieve those goals. With this in mind, the Education Consumers Foundation is proud to recognize the achievements of 18 of the most effective principals from across the state through its annual Value-Added Achievement Awards. The foundation will present these awards during a ceremony held in the State Capitol.

These school leaders are considered “the best of the best” when it comes to advancing their students academically, as measured by Tennessee’s Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS). Superior school-wide performance reflects superior teaching, teamwork, and leadership. TVAAS measures achievement gain in a way that permits schools to be compared regardless of the makeup of the student body. Schools whose students make the greatest annual gains in achievement earn the highest value-added scores.

“These principals have created a culture of performance within their schools,” said ECF President Dr. J. E. Stone. “If every school was like those of our 18 winners, Tennessee would have the best education system in the country.”

Tennessee’s Education Commissioner, Dr. Tim Webb will represent Governor Bredesen and participate in the presentations this year. “It’s a distinct pleasure to honor the educators and schools that are doing such an excellent job of advancing the knowledge and skills of their students,” said Dr. Webb. “Tennessee was the first state to have an assessment

system that permits educators to gain an accurate picture of how their efforts are impacting students, and I'm happy to be able to recognize principals whose superior work is reflected in their TVAAS results.”

In all, 18 winners were selected from among Tennessee's 1300+ public elementary and middle schools. Based on three-year value-added gains in Reading/Language Arts and Math, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards are given in two categories, Elementary and Middle schools, in each of Tennessee's three regions: East, Middle, and West.

Because the awards recognize high quality leadership, only schools where the principal has served for at least five years were considered.

“The fact that seven of these principals are repeat winners shows that superior performance is sustainable: it's a matter of expectations, leadership, and the way that they go about their business day in and day out,” said Stone. “The principals we recognize today have demonstrated what is possible regardless of the wealth or poverty of the student body. With TVAAS, people are able to see exactly what each school contributes to the success of its students, not just the test score averages that are so heavily influenced by demographic and socioeconomic differences.”

Additional information about the winners, including school performance charts, is available at www.education-consumers.org. Also posted there are “Recipes for Success” from each of the 18 principals and thoughts on what they have done as leaders to help their schools achieve.

The winning principals each receive a certificate, a banner and a cash award: \$3,000 for 1st place, \$2,000 for 2nd place, and \$1,000 for 3rd place.

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About Us: The Education Consumers Foundation is a nonprofit consumer organization. It gathers and disseminates information about education policy and practice on behalf of parents, taxpayers, and their elected representatives. Please visit us at www.education-consumers.org

Winners of the 2009 Value-Added Achievement Awards

Elementary Schools, West Tennessee

1st place:

Winchester Elementary
Memphis Schools
Flora Childres, Principal

2nd place:

Lincoln Magnet Elementary
Madison County Schools
Lynne Shuttleworth, Principal

3rd place:

Trenton Elementary
Trenton Schools
Jonathan Criswell, Principal

Elementary Schools, Middle Tennessee

1st place:

Bethpage Elementary
Sumner County Schools
Bill Johnson, Principal

2nd place:

Barfield Elementary
Rutherford County Schools
Judy Goodwin, Principal

3rd place:

Cowan Elementary
Franklin County Schools
Raymond Council, Principal

Elementary Schools, East Tennessee

1st place:

Carter Elementary
Knox County Schools
Julie Thompson, Principal

2nd place:

Eaton Elementary
Loudon County Schools
Jennifer Malone, Principal

3rd place:

Orchard Knob Elementary
Hamilton County Schools
Marthel Young, Principal

K-8/Middle Schools, West Tennessee

1st place:

West Carroll Junior High School
West Carroll Special School District
Lex Suite, Principal

2nd place:

Humboldt Middle School
Humboldt Schools
Lillian Shelton, Principal

3rd place:

Southside Elementary
Henderson County Schools
Neal Wright, Principal

K-8/Middle Schools, Middle Tennessee

1st place:

Smith County Middle School
Smith County Schools
Ronnie Scudder, Principal

2nd place:

McCann Alternative Learning Center
Davidson County Schools
Ruth Murray, Principal

3rd place:

Fairview Middle School
Williamson County Schools
Brian Bass, Principal

K-8/Middle Schools, East Tennessee

1st place:

Alcoa Middle School
Alcoa Schools
Jim Kirk Jr., Principal

2nd place:

Newport Grammar School
Newport Schools
Sandra Burchette, Principal

3rd place:

Forge Ridge School
Claiborne County Schools
Marty Cosby, Principal