



Education Consumers Foundation

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Building a Culture of Achievement: *18 Tennessee principals honored for students' remarkable learning gains*

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Nashville, TN (May 9, 2011) – We all know what a difference one great teacher can make in the life of a child. When a school is filled with great teachers – with students throughout the school reaching their academic potential as a result – you’ll undoubtedly find a great principal, working quietly behind the scenes to create the conditions that make it all possible. The Education Consumers Foundation is proud to recognize the achievements of 18 of these 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.

Winners are selected based on the most important school measurement available: Learning gains across the entire student body, as measured by Tennessee’s Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS). 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 18 principals show what a dedicated principal and teaching force can achieve in Tennessee schools,” noted 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.”

According to Governor Bill Haslam, “I am honored to join with the Education Consumers Foundation in recognizing great principals and schools for their work to help their students reach their potential,” Haslam said. “Tennessee is at the forefront of efforts to improve how we educate children, and value-added assessment is an important tool as we

look to continue the state's momentum in education reform. I'm happy to recognize today principals whose superior work is reflected in their TVAAS results.”

Governor Bill Haslam, Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey, Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, Senator Dolores Gresham (Chair of the Senate Education Committee), and Representative Richard Montgomery (Chair of the House Education Committee) will participate in the award ceremony. Speaker Harwell will serve as co-presenter of the awards.

In all, 18 winners were selected from among Tennessee's nearly 1,300 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.

“These principals are each running schools that take every student, no matter their starting point or economic circumstance, and help them fulfill their learning potential. That's what we want to see in every Tennessee school, and it is the reason we recognize these school leaders today,” said Stone. “We are also pleased to highlight the fact that several of our principals are repeat winners, showing that such achievements can be sustained over time; and, for the first time, we have three schools within a single district (Madison County), proving that excellence can be advanced across an entire system.”

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 2011 Value-Added Achievement Awards

Elementary Schools, East Tennessee

1st place:

Boones Creek Elementary
Washington County Schools
Teresa Leonard, Principal

2nd place:

Keplar Elementary
Hawkins County Schools
Sandra Vicars-Williams, Principal

3rd place:

Eaton Elementary
Loudon County Schools
Jennifer Malone, Principal

Elementary Schools, Middle Tennessee

1st place:

Stanford Elementary Montessori Design Center
Davidson County Schools
Melva Stricklin, Principal

2nd place:

The Discovery School
Dickson County Schools
Debbie Bogdan, Principal

3rd place:

Bethpage Elementary
Sumner County Schools
Bill Johnson, Principal

Elementary Schools, West Tennessee

1st place:

Lakeview Elementary
Memphis City Schools
Dr. Susie Lee Hodge, Principal

2nd place:

Lincoln Magnet Elementary
Madison County Schools
Lynne Shuttleworth, Principal

3rd place:

Isaac Lane Technology Magnet Elementary
Madison County Schools
Tisa Day, Principal

K-8/Middle Schools, East Tennessee

1st place:

Indian Trail Middle School
Johnson City Schools
Tammy Pearce, Principal

2nd place:

Jacksboro Middle School
Campbell County Schools
Jamie Wheeler, Principal

3rd place:

Holston Valley Middle School
Sullivan County Schools
Jess Lockhart, Principal

K-8/Middle Schools, Middle Tennessee

1st place:

Cornersville School
Marshall County Schools
Bob Edens, Principal

2nd place:

Thurman Francis Elementary
Rutherford County Schools
Dr. Andra Helton, Principal

3rd place:

Meigs Middle Magnet School
Davidson County Schools
Jon Hubble, Principal

K-8/Middle Schools, West Tennessee

1st place:

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

2nd place:

Brighton Middle School
Tipton County Schools
John Combs, Principal

3rd place:

Parkview Montessori Magnet School
Madison County Schools
Melinda Harris, Principal