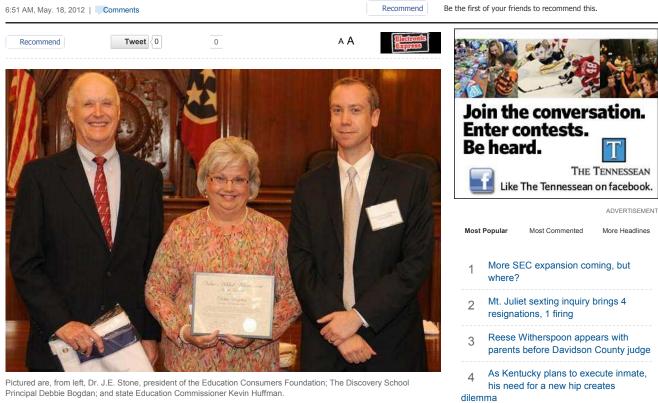


Education group awards Bogdan, school for gains



Written by Colleen Creamer The Dickson Herald

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The Education Consumer's Foundation awarded Principal Debbie Bogdan after The Discovery School that she helms finished third out of all Middle Tennessee elementary schools in the foundation's 2012 value-added achievement awards. The awards ceremony was held Monday in Nashville at the Tennessee Supreme Court where 18 principals statewide were awarded honored.

Winners were selected from Tennessee's nearly 1,300 public elementary and middle schools. First, second and third place awards were given in two categories, elementary and middle schools, in each of Tennessee's three regions: East, Middle, and West. Winners were selected on learning gains across an entire student body, as measured by Tennessee's Value Added Assessment System. TVAAS assesses gains made by schools in a way that compares them regardless of the demographic of the student body.

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"Dickson County has been represented at this event five times, twice by Dickson Middle School and three times by the Discovery School," said Bogdan. "I feel confident Dickson County will continue to be represented in the future because all of the great work taking place in all of our schools."

Different from previous years in which the ECF based winner selections on three-yearaverage TVAAS scores in reading/language arts and math, this year the foundation took a broader approach. They based rankings using the school's letter grades for reading/language arts, math, science and

social studies. Reading/language arts and math scores were double-weighted to reflect their importance, and a "grade point" average was then calculated.

The foundation takes the stance that, "without the support of a great principal working guietly behind the scenes to create the conditions for success, even the best teachers will inevitably be limited in what they can accomplish in the classroom."

Only principals who had served at the school for at least five years were eligible in order to assess leadership across time. The winning principals each received a certificate, a banner and a case award ranging from \$3,000 to \$1,000 dependent upon place.

"If every school performed at the level of our winners, Tennessee would lead the nation in educational improvement," said state Commissioner of Education, Kevin Huffman.

The Education Consumer's Foundation is a nonprofit consumer organization that gathers and disseminates information on education policy on behalf of parents, taxpayers and elected officials.

For more information on the Foundation's visit: http://www.education-consumers.org/

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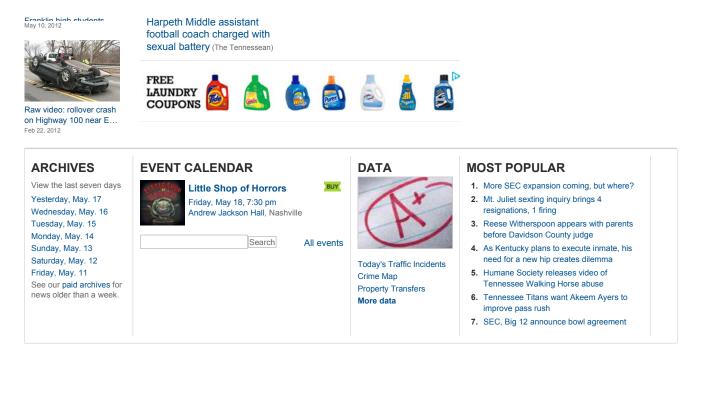
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