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## Principals recognized for leadership, student outcomes

By Lydia X. McCoy

Posted May 14, 2012 at 6:56 p.m.

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Rick Wilson

The Education Consumers Foundation on Monday honored 18 principals from across the state as part of its annual Value-Added Achievement Awards given to recognize quality leadership.

Brett Pawlowski, spokesman for the consumer advocacy agency that has been collecting and analyzing data from the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, said there are superlative Tennessee schools that deserve recognition.

"So many people put the emphasis on teacher quality that they overlook the role of the principal ... as the manager of the school," he said.

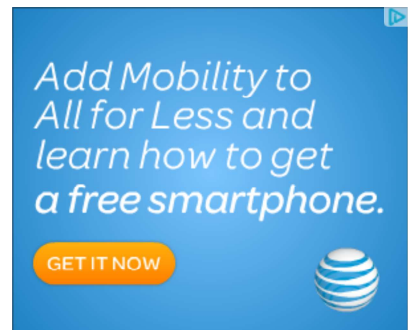
Only principals in their role for five years or more are eligible for the award.

Among this year's winners was John Sevier Elementary School principal Rick Wilson. In a statement, Wilson said he was proud to accept the award on behalf of his school and Maryville City Schools.

"Sharing best practices is an important part of what we do every day throughout the Maryville City Schools," he said. "Our three major focus areas at (John Sevier) are teach to the child, create and cultivate positive relationships and focus on families."

The group also presented the Luna Award, named after Inskip Elementary School principal Elisa Luna.

In 2010, Luna and Assistant Principal Amy Brace were in the school's office when fourth-grade teacher Mark Stephen Foster shot them both after finding out his teaching contract wasn't being renewed.



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Foster was charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder. He later pleaded guilty, receiving a 56-year prison sentence.

The Luna Award, presented to Sarah Wallace, principal of the Ninth Grade Academy in Lincoln County, recognizes a principal who has demonstrated character, the ability to inspire and an unwavering dedication to students, staff and the community.

Pawlowski said the award recognizes the intangibles of a principal beyond student outcomes, including leadership and dedication.

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7:41 p.m.

Well who the heck are the 18?

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May 14, 2012

8:29 p.m.

**lester\_phinney#218848 writes:**

So, when the students do well, it is because of the quality leadership of the government school system. However, when the students perform poorly, it is because of a lack of money and uninvolved parents.

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What a joke. The schools will never be reformed until we get rid of the unions; increase the student teacher ratio to what it was in the 80s, and do away with these silly teacher benefits.

May 14, 2012

8:54 p.m.

**Axeman writes:**

in response to [lester\\_phinney#218848](#):

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What a joke. The schools will never be reformed until we get rid of the unions; increase the student teacher ratio to what it was in the 80s, and do away with these silly teacher benefits.

Actually they probably won't improve much as long as people like you are procreating.

May 14, 2012

9:09 p.m.

**lester\_phinney#218848 writes:**

in response to [Axeman](#):

Actually they probably won't improve much as long as people like you are procreating.

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This coming from the guy who thinks homosexuality is either a product of evolution or a condition created by God. Enough said.

May 14, 2012

9:35 p.m.

**Axeman writes:**

in response to [lester\\_phinney#218848](#):

This coming from the guy who thinks homosexuality is either a product of evolution or a condition created by God. Enough said.

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Yeah, it is.

Spewing hate at an entire group of people based on their profession, the profession of educating children, is most definitely a Pavlovian behavior.

May 14, 2012

9:59 p.m.

**lester\_phinney#218848 writes:**

in response to [Axeman](#):

Yeah, it is.

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Spewing hate at an entire group of people based on their profession, the profession of educating children, is most definitely a Pavlovian behavior.

If you think teachers are overpaid and underworked, you are guilty of spewing hate. What an effective debating tactic. You never have to prove your point when you label someone a hater. It's good to know that you don't let little things, like lack of evidence, get in the way of your thinking. Typical emotional liberal.

May 14, 2012

10:09 p.m.

**Axeman writes:**

in response to [lester\\_phinney#218848](#):

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So calling awards for principals, including one who was shot in the head by a crazy who she was firing for being a bad teacher, "a joke" isn't something a hater would do? Looks pretty self evident to me. You put the N in RWNJ.

May 14, 2012  
10:38 p.m.

**lester\_phinney#218848 writes:**

in response to **Axeman:**

So calling awards for principals, including one who was shot in the head by a crazy who she was firing for being a bad teacher, "a joke" isn't something a hater would do? Looks pretty self evident to me. You put the N in RWNJ.

"So calling awards for principals, including one who was shot in the head by a crazy who she was firing for being a bad teacher, "a joke" isn't something a hater would do?" – Actually, those were your words, not mine.

If you actually read my post above, you would see that the "joke" referred to a system that praises the leadership of the school system when students excel, while criticizing the parents and complaining about a lack of money when students perform poorly.

Please note that you should respond to what people actually write, and not what the perverted craziness in your mind tells you that they write. You have created what is commonly referred to as a straw man argument. Since you cannot argue the topic at hand, you create an argument that does not exist; and, one that is easily defeated. Then, you argue against this newly formed straw man. It is a tactic commonly employed by liberals, and easily identified.

You, no doubt, will be up into the wee hours of the morning posting your mindless vitriol; whereas I have to get up in the morning and go to work. Thus, I will take the last word. Good night.

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