



March 12, 2013

Contact:  
**Marquette McKnight**  
706-660-9702 w  
706-570-3705 c

For Immediate Release

## **Top Ten Finalists Selected in MEEF Teacher of the Year Program**

The Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation (MEEF) announced the Top Ten finalists for the Muscogee County School District Teacher of the Year (TOTY) today, March 12, 2013. Finalists were selected from the applications of 59 teacher honorees – each named the Teacher of the Year for their respective schools. Finalists are

Ronda Allen	<i>Arnold Magnet Academy, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Language Arts</i>
Benjamin Foust	<i>St. Elmo Center for the Gifted, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade – Creativity</i>
Christy Grigsby	<i>Early College Academy, 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> grade English/Language Arts</i>
Brenda Howell	<i>Hardaway High, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade – Environmental Science, Forensic Science, IB Environmental</i>
Ellen Lane	<i>Gentian Elementary – 5<sup>th</sup> grade</i>
Kim Lester	<i>Britt David Magnet Academy, 5<sup>th</sup> grade</i>
Stephanie Marley	<i>Brewer Elementary, Kindergarten</i>
Rodolfo Perez	<i>Baker Middle 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade – Special Education</i>
Jennifer Sappington	<i>Northside High 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade – 9<sup>th</sup> grade Civics, 10<sup>th</sup> grade US History, 11<sup>th</sup> grade World History</i>
Carol Wink	<i>Clubview Elementary Pre-K-5<sup>th</sup> grade – Physical Education</i>

MEEF recognizes teachers who have dedicated themselves to excellence in the classroom. The Top Ten finalists will be interviewed by the MEEF Selection Committee, which is made up of business and educational leaders in Columbus. After the interviews, the Selection Committee will select the Top Three finalists, who will then be observed in their classrooms. The 2013 MCSD Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Gala on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Trade Center to an expected crowd of 800 supporters of excellence in education.

The gala is open to the public and tickets to the Gala can be purchased at Springer Box Office April 15 - 26 for \$35 each.

The Selection Committee members include MEEF Board members, community leaders and former

**MORE**

MEEF ANNOUNCES TOP TEN TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Page 2 of 2

March 12, 2013

MCSD Teachers of the Year. Chair is Janet Davis - TIC Federal Credit Union; Travis Chambers - ERA Elite Ventures Realty; Tom Titus – Community Leader; Dr. Tom Hackett – CSU; Debbie Caballero - Girl Scouts and Partners in Education; Colby Cardin - CB&T; former MCSD TOTYs Debra Everett – Spencer; Christine Powell – Northside and Paul Hampton – Columbus High.

MEEF is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering educational excellence by focusing on individual teachers who are innovative and exceptionally effective in their profession in the Muscogee County School district. The Foundation has awarded over \$1,500,000 to innovative teachers in MCSD, through financial incentives in the TOTY program, the MEEF Grant program and the MEEF Endowment Fund, the STEM-T3 program and the Harvard Graduate School project.

# # #

*Please contact Marquette McKnight 706-660-9702 for more information.*