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MEEF Recognizes and Rewards New Teachers

The Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation (MEEF) is expanding their prestigious Harvard Fellows program to teachers at the beginning of their careers. Seven teachers from the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) have been selected to attend Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero Perspectives Conference in Atlanta.

Teachers eligible for this prestigious program are teachers in their first three years of teaching, along with the honorees from the last two years of MCSD's *Outstanding First Year Teacher* program. The seven teachers selected to attend Project Zero Perspectives are:

Connie Enfinger, Arnold Magnet Academy Fuadh Faruque, Rothschild Leadership Academy
Chris Lovelock, Arnold Magnet Academy Danielle McCoy, Columbus High
Akear Mewborn, Kendrick High Chelsie Rogers, Northside High
Natalie Whitehurst, Wynnton Arts Academy

Dr. Carole Rutland, MEEF's Projects Chair said, *"Our Harvard Fellows told us that Project Zero had proven to be transformative on their teaching careers, with direct, practical and powerful application in the classroom. This is exactly the kind of opportunity MEEF supports in recognizing and rewarding teachers. We especially liked the idea of expanding that professional development opportunity to teachers at the beginning of their careers."*

The Project Zero Perspectives conference helps teachers build and sustain engaging and rigorous learning opportunities, alongside leading researchers and leaders in the field of teaching and learning, including educational gurus like Howard Gardner and David Perkins.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for these newer teachers to train at the hands of world-renowned leaders in teacher education." Davis Lewis, *"It's not just these teachers who benefit – the whole district benefits from this experience as these new professionals teach other teachers and most importantly, we see the tremendous impact this has on student achievement and learning. MEEF has been a great partner to the school district and to our teachers in providing these opportunities and we are very excited about this new program for our new teachers."*

The Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting educational excellence by recognizing and rewarding effective teaching in the Muscogee County School District. The Foundation has awarded over \$1,900,000 to innovative teachers through the Teacher of the Year; MEEF Grants and Endowment; and the STEM T³ and Harvard Fellows programs.

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