



NEWS RELEASE

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TEACHING EXCELLENCE HONORED BY FOUNDATION **Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation Announces** **56 Teachers of the Year from MCSD**

The Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation (MEEF) proudly announced **56** Muscogee County School District **Teacher of the Year (TOTY) honorees** today at RiverCenter for the Performing Arts.

The MEEF Board of Directors recognized teachers who have dedicated themselves to excellence in the classroom. MEEF Chair Janet Davis noted that MEEF's mission was to recognize and reward outstanding teachers. "The dedication and commitment of these outstanding teachers is the very foundation of our educational system. These teachers have made a significant impact in student learning and achievement and we are honored to recognize them as Teacher of the Year honorees. "

These remarkable teachers, nominated by their individual schools, will be acknowledged in a variety of ways throughout the year, beginning with this announcement, breakfast with the National Teacher of the Year in March and culminating with the Teacher of the Year Gala on Thursday, May 5 at the Trade Center. At the Gala, business and community supporters of excellence in education, gather to celebrate and honor some of the most talented and respected teachers of MCSD. The 2016 MCSD Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Gala to an expected crowd of 800 public education supporters. Tickets to the Gala can be purchased at the RiverCenter Box Office April 11-22 for \$35 each.

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. The Foundation has awarded more than \$2 million to innovative teachers through financial incentives in the TOTY program, the MEEF Grant program and the MEEF Endowment Fund.

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A list of the honorees and their schools is attached. Interviews are available with the TOTY honorees and/or representatives from MEEF.

2016 Teacher of the Year Honorees

Title	First	Last	School
Mrs.	Kacy	Ingram	Aaron Cohn Middle School
Mrs.	Shayna	Greene	Allen Elementary
Mrs.	Melissa	Niemi	Arnold Magnet Academy
Mrs.	Pearlie	Jenkins	Baker Middle School
Mrs.	Dorothy	Johnson	Blackmon Road Middle School
Ms.	Andrea	Toole	Blanchard Elementary
Mrs.	Ann Marie	Wiley	Brewer Elementary School
Mrs.	Afton	Pownall	Britt David Magnet Academy
Mr.	Lee	Cooper	Clubview Elementary
Ms.	Lisa	Mills	Columbus High School
Mrs.	Dione	David	Dawson Elementary School
Mrs.	Valerie	Pitts	Dimon Elementary Magnet Academy
Ms.	Joy	Walton	Dorothy Height Elementary
Mr.	Eric	Crouch	Double Churches Elementary
Mrs.	Kathleen	Bolar	Double Churches Middle School
Mrs.	Kathryn	Wagers	Downtown Elementary Magnet Academy
Mrs.	Angie	Strother	Eagle Ridge Academy
Mrs.	Susan	Hernandez	Early College Academy
Mrs.	Laura	Toepfer	East Columbus Magnet Academy
Mrs.	Delincia	Hart	Eddy Middle School
Dr.	Patricia	Horner	Edgewood Student Services Center
Mrs.	Diane	Ventimiglia	Forrest Road Elementary
Mr.	Otis	Lofton	Fort Middle School
Mrs.	Carmen	Estes	Fox Elementary
Mr.	Kenneth	Lawrence	G.W. Carver High School
Mrs.	Bonnie	Love	Gentian Elementary
Mr.	Mark	Sanders	Georgetown Elementary
Mr.	Benjamin	Hale	Hannan Elementary Magnet Academy
Ms.	Angelia	Davis	Hardaway High School
Mrs.	Christie	Griffin	J.D. Davis Elementary
Ms.	Julie	Johnson	Johnson Elementary
Mr.	Tony	McCraine	Jordan High School
Ms.	Akear	Mewborn	Kendrick High
Ms.	Jamie	Spanner	Key Elementary
Ms.	Dawn	Williams	Lonnie Jackson Academy
Mrs.	Sonjia	Roberts	Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary
Mrs.	Sheri	Isasi	Mathews Elementary
Mrs.	Linda	Sawyer	Midland Academy Elementary
Mrs.	Amy	Mobley	Midland Middle School

2016 Teacher of the Year Honorees

Title	First	Last	School
Mr.	Gary	Deloach	North Columbus Elementary
Mr.	John	Cobis	Northside High School
Mrs.	Lesley	Jakovcic	Reese Road Elementary
Ms.	Andrea	Bingham	Richards Middle
Mrs.	Vickie	Bailey	Rigdon Road Elementary
Mrs.	Emma	Neumeister	River Road Elementary
Ms.	Brenda	Curtis	Rothschild Leadership Academy
Mrs.	Deyka	Smith	Shaw High School
Ms.	Donessa	Moore	South Columbus Elementary
Mrs.	Robyn	Watson	Spencer High School
Ms.	Leigh	Sadler	St. Elmo Center for the Gifted
Mrs.	Stephanie	Brockman	St. Marys Magnet Academy
Ms.	Carolyn	Pharris	Veterans Memorial Middle
Mrs.	Susan	Oyster	Waddell Elementary
Ms.	Audrey	Ferguson-Edwards	Wesley Heights Elementary
Ms.	Beth	Badger	Woodall GNETS Program
Mrs.	Natalie	Chandler	Wynnton Arts Academy