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The
Washington Post
Distinguished
Educational
Leadership
Awards

The Washington Post
November 16, 2005

The Washington Post recognizes that quality education is essential to the health and vitality of our community. In 1983, the Grants in Education Program and the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards were established to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area. The overwhelmingly positive response from educators and the community to these programs has demonstrated that public recognition of the contributions made by educators is both appreciated and long overdue.

In 1986, The Washington Post established the Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards to recognize another vital member of the educational system—the school principal. Modeled after the Agnes Meyer Awards, the program honors as many as 20 principals—one representing the area’s private schools and one from each of the 19 local public school systems—who go beyond the day-to-day demands of the position to create an exceptional educational environment. The recipients of this year's awards are strong leaders, effective administrators, committed and knowledgeable educators, and, most of all, warm and humane people. Each has a vision that inspires and directs teachers, students and the community to lead their school to excellence.

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PROGRAM

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Remarks and Presentation of Awards

Donald E. Graham

Chairman

The Washington Post Company

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KIMBERLY J. AUSTIN,

Stafford County Public Schools, is the principal at Kate Waller Barrett Elementary School. She began her career in education in 1987 as a fifth grade teacher at Morton Elementary School in Jacksonville, N.C. After teaching at Morton for three years, Mrs. Austin moved to Pennsylvania and was a substitute for one year for the Lake-Lehman School District. In 1991, she was a sixth grade teacher for five years at Locust Grove Elementary School in Virginia. Mrs. Austin joined the Stafford County Public School system in 1996 as a fifth grade teacher at Hampton Oaks Elementary School in Stafford. From 1997 to 2000, she was assistant principal at Winding Creek Elementary School, also located in Stafford. In 2000, Mrs. Austin returned to Hampton Oaks as principal for two years before assuming her current position. She is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Education Association. Mrs. Austin holds an MEd in educational leadership from George Mason University, and a BA in elementary education from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa.



KRISTEN K. CLARK,

Alexandria City Public Schools, is the principal of Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Ms. Clark has held several positions in the Alexandria Public School system including teacher, instructional leader and administrator. From 1985 to 1995, she worked as a classroom teacher and as a lead teacher at Mount Vernon Elementary School and at Cora Kelly Magnet School. In 1995, she authored a chapter for NEA's *Teacher-to-Teacher* series, entitled "Multiaged Classrooms" and co-wrote a teacher's guide for Edunetics, an educational software company. Ms. Clark was promoted in 1996 to assistant principal of Hammond Middle School. One year later, she was named to the

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position of associate principal at Hammond, a title she held for three years, until she assumed her present position. During her tenure at Hammond, she has led the school to full state accreditation for the last four years. Ms. Clark holds an MEd in administration and supervision and a BS in education, both from George Mason University.



DONALD E. COOKE,

Charles County Public Schools, is the principal at La Plata High School. Mr. Cooke has been an educator for 37 years and began his career as a science, health and physical education teacher at South Stokes High School in Walnut Grove, N.C. In 1969, he relocated to Maryland and joined the faculty at Milton Somers Middle School in La Plata, as a health and physical education teacher. After three years at Milton Somers, Mr. Cooke became a science, health and physical education teacher at La Plata High School until 1985. Over the course of three years, Mr. Cooke was vice principal at John Hanson Middle School in Waldorf. In 1988, Mr. Cooke became the supervisor of health, physical education and athletics for Charles County Public Schools where he remained until he assumed his current position in 1992. As an educator, Mr. Cooke is a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals. He earned a BA in health and physical education from High Point University in North Carolina.

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ELISABETH A. GRIFFITH,

Is the headmistress of the Madeira School in McLean. Dr. Griffith began her career in education in 1972, as an American politics and history teacher at the National Cathedral School in the District, a position she held until 1975. In 1976, she moved to St. Louis, Mo., where, for one year, she taught women's history at the Mary Institute. In 1977, Dr. Griffith was awarded a teaching fellowship from the Institute of Politics, John

F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. From 1978 to 1981, she continued her studies as a doctoral candidate at American University in the District. After receiving her PhD, Dr. Griffith joined the staff at American as an adjunct lecturer in history until 1988 when she assumed her present position. She holds several degrees in history including a PhD from American University, an MA from Johns Hopkins University, and a BA from Wellesley College.



HOLLY HAWTHORNE,

Arlington Public Schools, is the principal of Arlington Traditional School. A graduate of Washington-Lee High School, Ms. Hawthorne is a native of Arlington. She began her career in education in 1972, as a third and fourth grade teacher at Linkhorne Elementary School in Lynchburg, Va. In 1973, Ms. Hawthorne returned to Arlington and for the next nine years taught grades three through six at Woodmont

Elementary School. From 1982 to 1988, she moved to Taylor Elementary School where she taught grades four through six. In 1988, Ms. Hawthorne was named elementary school mentor and acting principal at Barrett Elementary School where she served for one year. From 1989 to 1990, she was an assistant principal-in-training at Francis Scott Key and Abingdon Elementary Schools.

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In 1990, Ms. Hawthorne returned to the classroom to teach fourth grade at Randolph Elementary School. She was appointed to her present position in 1992. Ms. Hawthorne holds an MS in education and human development from George Washington University and a BA in elementary education from Lynchburg College in Virginia.



STEPHEN D. HOCKETT,

Fairfax County Public Schools, is the principal of McNair Elementary School. He began his career in education in 1987 as a second grade general education teacher at M.P. Brown Elementary School in Daily City, Calif. One year later, he moved to West Pittsburg Elementary School, in Pittsburg, Calif., teaching grades two and three in a combination class. In 1989, Mr. Hockett joined the Fairfax County Public School system as a general education teacher at Sunrise Valley Elementary School in Reston, teaching grades two through six over four years. In 1993, he joined the staff of Churchill Road Elementary School in McLean, teaching fifth grade and sixth grade gifted and talented. In 1996, Mr. Hockett was promoted to assistant principal of Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences in Reston. Three years later, he was named principal of Hunters Woods, a title he held until 2005 when he assumed his present position. Mr. Hockett earned an MEd in educational leadership from George Mason University and a BA in psychology from California State University in Stanislaus.

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DIANA LAMBERT-AIKENS,

Prince William County Public Schools, is the principal of West Gate Elementary School. Mrs. Lambert-Aikens has worked her entire career in the Prince William County Public School system. She began her career in education in 1978 as a learning disability teacher at Kilby Elementary School, a position she held for 13 years. From 1991 to 1994, while still at Kilby, Mrs. Lambert-Aikens became a learning disability resource teacher and administrative assistant. In 1994, she was promoted to assistant principal of Occoquan Elementary School. One year later, Mrs. Lambert-Aikens moved to Potomac View Elementary School serving as assistant principal until she assumed her present position in 1997. While at West Gate, she has implemented the Eight Step Process, a model used to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap. Mrs. Lambert-Aikens holds an MEd in early childhood from George Mason University and a BS in special education from the University of Maryland.



SHARON MORELL,

Anne Arundel County Public Schools, is the principal of Severna Park Middle School. She began her career in education in 1972 as a fourth grade teacher at Edgcombe Circle Elementary School in Baltimore City. She joined the Anne Arundel County Public School system in 1973 as a reading resource teacher at Marley Junior High School, a position she held for two years. In 1975, Mrs. Morell became a seventh grade language arts teacher and subsequently was selected as chair of the language arts department at Magothy River Middle School. From 1990 to 1996, Mrs. Morell was the assistant principal at Old Mill

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Middle North School. She was named principal at Severna Park in 1997. She holds an MEd in reading education and a BS in elementary education from Towson State University in Maryland. Mrs. Morell also earned a principal certification from Johns Hopkins University.



ANTHONY V. NAVARRO,

Calvert County Public Schools, is the principal at Mount Harmony Elementary School. Mr. Navarro began his career in education with the Prince George's County Public School system in 1972 as a first grade teacher at Randolph Village Elementary where he remained for three years. From 1975 to 1978, he taught fourth and fifth grades at Kenmoor Elementary School. In 1978, Mr. Navarro became a reading specialist for the school system. Mr. Navarro joined Calvert County Public Schools in 1984 as a fifth grade teacher at Beach Elementary School in Chesapeake Beach, Md. After four years at Beach, he taught fifth grade at Sunderland Elementary School until 1992 when he was promoted to vice principal at Patuxent Elementary School. Mr. Navarro remained at Patuxent for three years and then returned to Beach as vice principal until assuming his current position in 1999. Mr. Navarro earned an MEd in elementary reading and BA in elementary education from the University of Maryland.

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HELENA NOBLES-JONES,

Prince George's County Public Schools, is the principal of Charles Herbert Flowers High School. Her career in education began in 1967 when she was a counselor and teacher for the TransCentury Corporation, a District-based private organization that supported a training program for high school dropouts. Later that year, she was hired by the District of Columbia Public School system as a teacher at Hart Junior High School, where she was named dean of girls in 1973. Three years later, she was selected by the school district to be an administrative intern and Rockefeller Fellow and was subsequently named assistant principal for Draper Elementary School and Friendship Educational Center. From 1980 to 1996, she was the principal for Mary Church Terrell Elementary School, Frank W. Ballou Senior High School, and then Daniel C. Roper Junior/Middle School. In December 1996, Mrs. Nobles-Jones was promoted to assistant superintendent for the District of Columbia Public Schools and retired from the school district in February 1998. She was the education director for the Foundation for Educational Innovation in 1998 and then returned to her role as principal later that year at Northern High School in Baltimore City. Mrs. Nobles-Jones took over her present position in 2000. She earned an MA in educational administration from Ohio State University and a BA in English at North Carolina College.



JERROLD C. PERLET,

Montgomery County Public Schools, is the principal of Sherwood Elementary School. Mr. Perlet has held several positions in the Montgomery County Public School system during his 32-year career in education. From 1973 to 1983, he was a classroom teacher for Cresthaven, Brookhaven, Potomac, and Rock Creek Forest Elementary Schools. In December 1983, Mr. Perlet became a teacher specialist for Montgomery County Public Schools' Area 3 Administrative Office. In June 1990, he was promoted to the position of principal intern/assistant principal for Waters Landing Elementary School

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and in 1992 was named principal for Monocacy Elementary School. He assumed his present position in 1998. He is also the principal of the Baldrige Academy, an on-site training center for Montgomery County classroom teachers that addresses continuous improvement in school planning. Sherwood is one of two sites providing training for all of the county schools. Perlet is the author of *Adventures With Grandpa Ek: Washington, D.C.*, a children's guide to the District. He earned an MA in teaching elementary education from George Washington University and a BA in environmental sciences from Duke University in North Carolina.



PERRY B. POPE,

Manassas City Public Schools, is the principal of Osbourn High School. Beginning his career in education in 1960, Dr. Pope taught at various schools for the Houston Independent School District over the course of eight years. From 1968 to 1979, he became assistant principal at Scarborough High School, principal at Black Junior High School and later was the principal at Waltrip High School, all located in Houston. In 1979, Dr. Pope was the principal at Bryan High School in Texas, where he remained for five years. After his tenure at Bryan, he became assistant superintendent for instruction for the Bryan Independent School District where he remained until 1987. From 1987 to 1993, Dr. Pope returned to Houston and became principal at Spring Woods High School. In 1993, he relocated to Virginia Beach and became the principal at Frank W. Cox High School until assuming his current position in 2002. In 1994, Dr. Pope was honored as Texas Principal of the Year and under his leadership, Spring Woods High School was recognized as the Texas Blue Ribbon School in 1991. Dr. Pope earned an EdD in educational administration from Texas A&M University, an MEd in educational administration from the University of Houston and a BS in education also from Texas A&M University.

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JOHN H. ROBINSON,

Loudoun County Public Schools, is the principal of Douglass School. Dr. Robinson began his career with the Loudoun County Public School system in 1967, as a sixth and seventh grade social studies teacher at Middleburg Elementary School in Virginia. In 1968, he moved to Catoclin Elementary School in Leesburg, where he was a classroom teacher. One year later, he was promoted to principal of Aldie Elementary School in Leesburg, a position he held for two years. In 1971, Dr. Robinson moved across the Potomac and joined the Montgomery County Public School system serving as a special education resource teacher for the next six years. From 1977 to 1987, he was assistant director of secondary learning centers for Montgomery County Public Schools, concentrating on special education for grades seven through 12. In 1987, Dr. Robinson was named principal of McKenny Hills Learning Center in Rockville, where he remained for four years. From 1991 to 2000, he held the position of principal at Mark Twain School, also in Rockville. In 2000, Dr. Robinson returned to Loudoun County and assumed his current position. He holds an EdD in public school administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, an MA in special education from George Washington University and a BA in history, English and secondary education from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md.



WAYNE RYAN,

District of Columbia Public Schools, is the principal at Crosby S. Noyes Elementary School. Mr. Ryan began his career in education in 1991 in Brooklyn, N.Y., as a classroom teacher. During his tenure in New York from 1991 to 1997, he also held the positions of dean of students, coordinator of student affairs, and special assistant to the principal. In 1997, Mr. Ryan relocated and joined the faculty at Francis Scott Key Junior High School in District Heights, Md., as assistant principal and in 1998

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became principal at Bruce Monroe Elementary School in the District. After three years at Bruce Monroe, he assumed his current position. During his career in education, he has received the Ward 5 Council in Education Service Award and the Hispanic Community of Bruce-Monroe Service Award. He earned a JD from Howard University and a BA in history and prelaw from the University of Detroit. Mr. Ryan has also received a certificate in educational leadership from the Principal's Center at Harvard University.



JILL SNYDER-MILLS,

St. Mary's County Public Schools, is the principal at Esperanza Middle School. Her career in education began in 1985 as a clinical instructor for the Adolescent Learning Disabilities Clinic at West Virginia University in Morgantown. From 1986 to 1988, Ms. Snyder-Mills was a special education traveling resource teacher for the Monongalia School District also located in Morgantown, W.Va. She later became a special education teacher at Penn Elementary School in Cumberland, Md., and joined the faculty at Esperanza in 1989 as a special education resource teacher. After her three-year tenure at Esperanza, Ms. Snyder-Mills was a special education coordinator for St. Mary's County Public Schools where she remained for three years. In 1995, she was named principal at Green Holly Elementary School in Lexington Park, Md. Ms. Snyder-Mills returned to Esperanza in 2004 and assumed her current position. She holds an MA in special education and a BS in elementary education from West Virginia University.

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MARLENE A. TARR,

Frederick County Public Schools, is the principal of Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Mrs. Tarr has been an educator since 1968 when she began her career as a speech, hearing and language pathologist for Sayreville Public Schools and the Middlesex Rehabilitation Hospital, both in New Jersey. From 1973 to 1978, she took time off from her career to raise a family and attend graduate school. In the fall of 1978, Mrs. Tarr returned to teaching and joined the Frederick County Public School System as a substitute teacher. From 1979 to 1986, she was a special education teacher and department chair at Linganore High School. Mrs. Tarr was promoted to area coordinator of special education in 1986 and held the position until 1988 when she was named central coordinator of special education. In 1989, she became principal of Heather Ridge High School, where she remained for seven years. In 1996, Mrs. Tarr moved to Catoclin High School where she served as principal before assuming her current position in 2001. Mrs. Tarr holds an MEd in education from Western Maryland College in Westminster, and a BA in education from the University of Kentucky in Lexington.



SUSAN J. WEBSTER,

Howard County Public Schools, is principal at Triadelphia Ridge Elementary School. Mrs. Webster has been an educator for 28 years and began her career with Howard County Public Schools in 1977 as a first, second, and third grade teacher at Bushy Park Elementary School. After a six-year tenure at Bushy Park, she joined the faculty at Atholton Elementary as a second grade teacher and assistant principal where she remained for five years. From 1988 to 1991, Mrs. Webster was assistant principal at Bollman Bridge Elementary. In 1991, she became principal at Bryant Woods Elementary School and in 1997 was a principal on assignment for the Howard County Public

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School system. She assumed her current position in 1998. Mrs. Webster is also an adjunct professor at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., where she teaches curriculum trends and issues. Mrs. Webster earned an MS in administration and supervision from Johns Hopkins University, and a BA in education from the University of South Carolina in Columbia.



DOUGLAS M. WHITE,

Fauquier County Public Schools, is the principal of C.M. Bradley Elementary School. He has worked in the Fauquier County Public School system for his entire 37-year career in education. Mr. White joined Fauquier County Public Schools in 1968 as a classroom teacher for Central Elementary School and one year later moved to H.M. Pearson Elementary School in Catlett. In 1973, he was named to the position of assistant principal for P.B. Smith Elementary School in Warrenton and two years later returned to H.M. Pearson Elementary as principal. In 1982, he was named to his present position. Mr. White holds an MS in school administration and a BA, cum laude, in political science with a minor in philosophy and psychology, both from West Virginia University in Morgantown. He also attended West Virginia University's College of Law.



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