

2023 FCS
Teacher of the Year




NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL
FORSYTH
Presents the



Celebration of Excellence

Honoring our **STAR** Partners in Education,
Parent/Guardian Leaders, and Teachers of the Year!

Agenda

March 9, 2023

Welcome - Dr. Jeff Bearden, Superintendent, Forsyth County Schools (FCS)

Recognition & Remarks - Mr. James McCoy, President, Forsyth County Chamber

Title Sponsor Remarks - Ms. Lynn Jackson, Chief Operating Officer, Northside Hospital Forsyth

Mentor of the Year - Georgia Power

Friend of the School - Georgia United Credit Union

Volunteer of the Year - Dr. Jeff Bearden

Program of the Year-Silver - Northside Hospital Forsyth

Program of the Year-Gold - Northside Hospital Forsyth

Don Hendricks Award - Mr. Drew Walker, Chairperson, Forsyth County Chamber & The Hendricks Family

Introduction of 2022 FCS TOTY - Dr. Jeff Bearden

Recognition of 2023 FCS TOTY - Mr. Michael Cheek, 2022 FCS Teacher of the Year

Announcement of 2023 FCS TOTY - Ms. Darla Light, Chairperson, FCS Board of Education

Special Presentation - Andean Chevrolet

Closing - Dr. Jeff Bearden



Teachers of the Year

Special Congratulations

2



Wendi Guthrie
Big Creek ES



Leslie Marulanda
Brandywine ES



Donna Feuerbach
Brookwood ES



Molly Burns
Chattahoochee ES



Lori Holbrooks
Chestatee ES



Ashley Yarber
Coal Mountain ES



Zo Sanchez
Cumming ES



Caitlin Odess
Daves Creek ES



April Wylie
Haw Creek ES



Judy Camp
Johns Creek ES



Jaime DeVito
Kelly Mill ES



Sylvia Davis
Mashburn ES



Stevie Segraves
Matt ES



Angela Vallier
Midway ES



Morgan O'Leary
New Hope ES



Abby Wagner
Poole's Mill ES



Vicki Baker
Sawnee ES



Tara Stewart
Settles Bridge ES



Jeni Pestorius
Sharon ES



Allison Bronk
Shiloh Point ES



Isaac Padilla
Silver City ES



Rebecca Bronson
Vickery Creek ES



Ashley Martin
Whitlow ES



Tara McClelland
DeSana MS



Sara Carder
Hendricks MS



Kelly Morton
Lakeside MS



Jennifer Kelley
Liberty MS



Kari Shepherd
Little Mill MS



Erica Gaines
North Forsyth MS



Barry Bruce
Otwell MS



Cari Shelton
Piney Grove MS



Hunter McGee
Riverwatch MS



Maxwell Marshall
South Forsyth MS



Gretchen Alain
Vickery Creek MS



Jessica Demerly
Alliance Academy



Suzanne Bertz
Denmark HS



Michele Yeager
East Forsyth HS



Bethany Demarest
Forsyth Central HS



Stephen Pate
Lambert HS



Jamie Summerour
North Forsyth HS



Steffi Legall-Riddle
South Forsyth HS



Kyle Hill
West Forsyth HS



Denotes
2023
Semi-Finalist



Teacher of the Year Finalists



Jaime DeVito is a Specialized Instruction Skills Based Autism (K-2) teacher at Kelly Mill Elementary School. She began her teaching career in 2010 and joined the FCS family in 2018. Jaime received her bachelor's degree from Kennesaw State University, her master's degree from Georgia Southern University, and her specialist's degree from Kennesaw State University.



Morgan O'Leary is a first-grade teacher at New Hope Elementary School. She received her bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and her master's degree from Piedmont University. Morgan started her teaching career in FCS at Big Creek Elementary in 2015.



Isaac Padilla is a third-grade teacher at Silver City Elementary School, where he began his teaching career in 2018. Isaac received his bachelor's degree from Truett McConnell University.



Kari Shepherd is a sixth-grade math teacher at Little Mill Middle School. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia, her master's degree from American College of Education, and her specialist's degree from Piedmont University. Kari joined the FCS family in 2011.



Erica Gaines is a science teacher at North Forsyth Middle School. Her teaching career started in 2007, and she moved to FCS in 2013. Erica received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Georgia, her master's degree from Western Governors University, and her specialist's degree from Piedmont University.



Suzanne Bertz is an Immediate Reinforcement and Remediation (IRR) teacher at Denmark High School. Suzanne received her bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University and her master's degree from Columbus State University. She joined the FCS family in 2016.



Jamie Summerour is a science teacher at North Forsyth High School. Her teaching career in FCS began in 2010. Jamie received her bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, her master's degree from Georgia Institute of Technology, and her specialist's degree from Piedmont University.

Forsyth County Teacher of the Year

Will Receive

A Car Lease from Andean Chevrolet, Gift Cards, and Similar Gift Items Donated by:

- > 3RD ASCENT
- > Andean Chevrolet
- > Atlanta Gladiators
- > Buff City Soap
- > Buffalo Wild Wings
- > Celebrations by the Yard
- > Cheeky
- > City of Cumming
- > Comfort Suites of Cumming
- > Community Cup
- > Costco
- > Dental Town
- > Derrick Friedman Investment Advisor
- > EBG
- > FCS Technology Department
- > Financial Consultants Group
- > Forsyth-Cumming Optimist Club
- > Freedom Mill
- > GrapeVine's
- > Kroger
- > Lenny's Grill and Subs
- > Peachtree Orthopedics
- > The ICE
- > United Reading
- > United Way of Forsyth County
- > VaniCloud.com; AWS and Devops Consulting
- > Warbington Farms

Each of the 2023 Finalists Will Receive Gift Cards and Similar Gift Items Donated by:

- > Amigo Embroidery
- > Ashley Baer
- > Atlanta Gladiators
- > Beaver Toyota
- > Big D's BBQ
- > Cadey Studios
- > Centillion Solutions
- > Cheeky
- > Christian Brothers Automotive
- > City of Cumming
- > Color My Nest
- > Community Cup
- > Evan Profeta State Farm Insurance
- > Forsyth County Retired Educators
- > Friends of Todd Jones
- > Hello Pam Evans Century 21 and Sonja Bullard Acopia Home Loans Forsyth
- > Kroger
- > GW Moulding
- > My Forsyth Magazine
- > North Georgia Replacement Windows
- > Peach Skin Sheets
- > Sawnee-Cumming Optimist Club
- > Southern Baked Pie Company
- > Stars and Strikes
- > Three Basketeers
- > United Way of Forsyth ounty
- > VALIC Financial Advisors
- > Warbington Farms
- > West Milford Farms
- > World Logo

Each of the 2023 School-Level Teachers of the Year Will Receive Gift Cards and Similar Gift Items Donated by:

- > Atlanta Gladiators
- > Beaudry Engraving
- > Berni Inc.
- > Bliss Mama Wellness
- > Bounce House Atanta
- > BPI Photography
- > Browns Bridge Church
- > Buff City Soap
- > Cheeky
- > Chick-fil-A Dawsonville and Dahlonega
- > Chick-fil-A The Collection
- > City of Cumming
- > CMX CineBistro at Halycon
- > Community Cup
- > Cumming Rheumatology and Arthritis LLC
- > Dream Dinners
- > Forsyth County Parks and Rec.
- > HoneyBaked Ham
- > i9 Sports
- > Jim N Nicks
- > Jostens
- > Keep Forsyth County Beautiful
- > Lakewood 400 Antiques Market
- > Launch Cumming
- > Lenny's Grill and Subs
- > Lifetouch National School Studios
- > Literacy Network of North Georgia
- > Lunar Yoga
- > Mellow Mushroom
- > Peach Skin Sheets
- > Southern Baked Pie Company
- > Stars and Strikes
- > Tam's Backstage & Tam's Tupelo
- > The Bagel Hole
- > Wal-Mart
- > Warbington Farms
- > Waxing the City

Teacher of the Year

Selection Committee

For the Teacher of the Year (TOTY) program, all school-level TOTY complete a written application. Based on the scores from the applications, semi-finalists are selected who in turn submit a teaching video. Based on the scores from the application and video, seven finalists are selected. They are then interviewed, and their interview score, along with the scores from the application and video, determine the Forsyth County TOTY. This program would not be possible without Partners in Education and Forsyth County Schools' staff members that serve as application readers, video reviewers and interviewers. We sincerely appreciate the time and dedication of the following individuals:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| > Jennifer Amburgy | > Ana Clavijo | > David McKee | > Kim Schreier |
| > Courtney Bean | > Michaela Claus-Nix | > Karl Mercer | > Jill Short |
| > Suzy Besson-Martilotta | > Doug Dershimer | > T.J. Miniscalco | > Nikki Thomas |
| > Jamie Brown | > Rob Dugan | > Al Money | > Josue Valencia |
| > Kelli Buchwald | > Fonda Harrison | > Jason Naile | > Donna Wade |
| > Kerry Carithers | > Derrick Hershey | > Susan Norce | > Tracey Winkler |
| > Robin Castleberry | > Elizabeth Ihle | > Andy Poor | > Tom Wolff |
| > Michael Cheek | > Denise Leeson | > Kim Sarfaty | |

Past Forsyth County

Teachers of the Year

2022

Michael Cheek
Vickery Creek MS

State Finalists

2021

Kim Sarfaty
Chestatee ES

2015

Marlo Miranda
Forsyth Central HS

2009

Jenna Greene
Otwell MS

2003

Laura Link
North Forsyth HS

1997

Sandy Beck
Mashburn ES

2020

Jessica Younhouse
North Forsyth HS

2014

Kristen Deuschle
Piney Grove MS

2008

Suzy Besson- Martilotta
Chattahoochee ES

2002

Debi Carnaroli
Matt ES

1991

Kathy Vail
Forsyth Central HS

2019

Kim Schreier
South Forsyth MS

2013

Nick Crowder
South Forsyth HS

2007

Melissa Sessa
Otwell MS

2001

Elaine Taylor
Otwell MS

1976

Edith Wright
Cumming ES

2018

Jonas Strecker
South Forsyth HS

2012

Anna Aigner- Muehler
Forsyth Central HS

2006

Mike Sloop
Otwell MS

2000

Alice Holland
North Forsyth HS

2017

Maleah Stewart
North Forsyth MS

2011

Natalie Kitchen
Lambert HS

2005

Ronnie McNeese
Otwell MS

1999

Dorothy Breeze
Chattahoochee ES

2016

Andrew Poor
South Forsyth MS

2010

Robin Neal
Matt ES

2004

Polly Tennes
Chestatee ES

1998

Jackie West
South Forsyth HS



2022-23

Employees of the Month

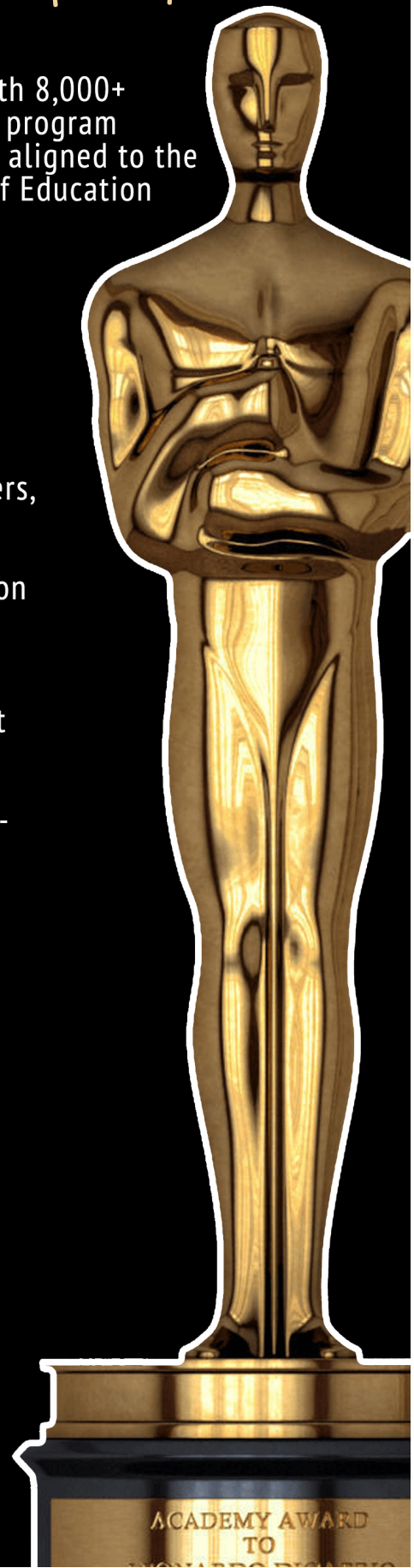
Forsyth County Schools (FCS) is the largest employer in the county with 8,000+ full/part-time employees and substitutes. The Employee of the Month program recognizes the outstanding achievements of district employees and is aligned to the FCS' Learner Profile. Award winners are publicly recognized at Board of Education meetings and spotlighted on the district's social media accounts with #FCSEmployeeoftheMonth.

2022-23 Winners Include:

- > School Food & Nutrition - Kay Tidwell, North Forsyth HS
- > Student Support Employees (Psychologists, Counselors, Social Workers, Intervention Specialists and Nurses) - Pat Klosinski, Johns Creek ES
- > Transportation Employee - Chris Adams, Riverwatch MS Transportation District Supervisor
- > Support Personnel (Central Office Support, Registration, Secretaries, Bookkeepers and Technical Support Specialists) - Pam Gunn, Student Information
- > Service Employees (Facilities, Warehouse and Custodial Employees) - Marco Ramirez, Shiloh Point ES
- > Paraprofessionals - Laurie Tyra, South Forsyth High School
- > Leadership Employees (Central Office Administrators, Principals and Assistant Principals) - Polly Tennies, Chestatee ES



EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS



Partners in Education

Don Hendricks Partnership Award

2022-23 has been an outstanding year for the Partners in Education (PIE) program, with over 1,200 active partners working with 42 schools and various district departments. PIE provides generous funding, thousands of volunteer hours and countless in-kind services to improve student achievement in all subject areas, enrich students' life experiences, help grow career opportunities, and boost educator support and morale. Through relationships with partners, Forsyth County Schools' students, teachers and schools are succeeding at higher levels and improving the overall quality of life in our community.

A testament to these accomplishments is the Don Hendricks Partnership Award, the highest honor that a PIE can receive. The Hendricks family established this award in 2002 after the passing of their father, a long-time member of the Board of Education who was instrumental in the formation of local school advisory councils (now called Local School Councils) and the district's Strategic Plan. In 2021, Forsyth County Schools opened its 11th middle school named after Mr. Hendricks.

The Don Hendricks Partnership Award is given to a long-time partner who best exemplifies the district's vision of "A Safe, Connected, and Thriving Community for All" and demonstrates loyalty to the school system and to the community.

Past recipients include:

- > 2022 Tommy & Chantal Bagwell
- > 2021 Forte Data Systems
- > 2020 Georgia Highlands Medical Services
- > 2019 Andean Chevrolet
- > 2018 Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
- > 2017 Morrow Family Foundation
- > 2016 Browns Bridge Church
- > 2015 Cindy J. Mills
- > 2014 Automation Direct
- > 2013 Siemens Industry, Inc.
- > 2012 RBM of Atlanta North
- > 2011 The Place of Forsyth County
- > 2010 Georgia United Credit Union
- > 2009 John Heath RE/MAX 400 North and Your Results Team
- > 2008 Jim and Jeanne DeSana
- > 2007 United Way
- > 2006 Keep Forsyth County Beautiful
- > 2005 Northside Hospital Forsyth
- > 2004 Outback Steakhouse
- > 2003 Regions Bank
- > 2002 The Kroger Company Stores



Partners In Education
FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS



If you are not yet a PIE, visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/PIE and complete an interest form to get involved!

Forsyth County Education Foundation

As the 5th largest district in Georgia, Forsyth County Schools serves 54,100+ students representing 129 countries and 69 languages. To put our student population into perspective, we are larger than Truist Park's capacity. In the past decade, we have grown 44%! We are home to 42 schools - 23 elementary, 11 middle, and 8 high.

In July 2015, the Forsyth County Board of Education approved the creation of the Forsyth County Education Foundation as an extension of our successful Partners in Education program. The Foundation is an opportunity for the community to partner with Forsyth County Schools to support innovative teaching and increased student achievement.

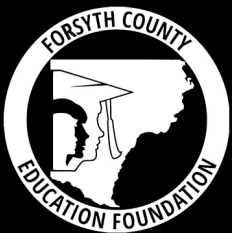
TOTAL IMPACT: \$480,000 and 108,548 Students

But, even with this success we have not been able to meet all the needs of our students and staff. This is why we need the help of the community to make a BIG SPLASH for education again this year with our 2023 **DUCK DIVE FOR EDUCATION!**

What is a Duck Dive? Individuals of all ages in and outside of Forsyth County are invited to "adopt" a rubber duck for only \$10. Each duck is numbered and placed into a large pond. One person "dives in" and selects one lucky duck winner for a \$10,000 prize!

Visit forsyth.k12.ga.us/duck to adopt a duck **TODAY!** Sponsorship opportunities are also available for generous community members – Contact hsamples@forsyth.k12.ga.us to make your donation **TODAY!**

The Foundation also provides student and staff scholarships! If you are interested in moving your scholarship to the Foundation or establishing a scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one, contact hsamples@forsyth.k12.ga.us. The Forsyth County Education Foundation is a fund of the North Georgia Community Foundation.



Adopt a Duck Today!





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Lettering
- Custom Art and Decor

