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Education Consumers Foundation Recognizes 18 State Principals Including Normal Park's Jill Levine

Monday, May 14, 2012



Dr. J. E. Stone, president of the Education Consumers Foundation, is on the left; Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman is on the right. In the middle is Jill Levine, principal of Normal Park Museum Magnet School, Hamilton County Schools.

Education reformers have made teacher quality a top concern in Tennessee and elsewhere – and rightly so. But without the support of a great principal, working quietly behind the scenes to create the conditions for success, even the best teachers will inevitably be limited in what they can accomplish in the classroom.

The Education Consumers Foundation, therefore, has recognized the achievements of 18 of these principals from across the state through its annual Value-Added Achievement Awards. The foundation will present these awards during a ceremony held at the Tennessee Supreme Court.

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Winners are selected based on the most important school measurement available: Learning gains across the entire student body, as measured by Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS). TVAAS measures achievement gain in a way that permits schools to be compared regardless of the makeup of the student body. Schools whose students make the greatest annual gains in achievement earn the highest value-added scores.

"These 18 principals show what a dedicated principal and teaching force can achieve in Tennessee schools," said ECF President Dr. J. E. Stone. "If every school performed at the level of our 18 winners, Tennessee would lead the nation in educational improvement."

Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman said, "I am pleased to join with the Education Consumers Foundation in recognizing some of our most effective principals and schools. Value-added achievement is a central focus as we work to boost student achievement across the state, and these education leaders are shining examples of what's possible in Tennessee."

Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman will offer remarks about the vital work of the principals and serve as co-presenter of the awards.

In previous years, winners were selected on the basis of their three-year average TVAAS scores in reading/language arts and math; this year, the Foundation changed its ranking model to reflect a more comprehensive approach to student achievement. Rankings are now made using schools' letter grades for reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies; reading/language arts and math scores are double-weighted to reflect the importance of these areas. A "grade point average" is calculated, with a complementary measure – the new three-year average Literacy/Numeracy Growth Index – used as a secondary factor.

In all, 18 winners were selected from among Tennessee's nearly 1,300 public elementary and middle schools. First, second and third place awards are given in two categories, elementary and middle schools, in each of Tennessee's three regions: East, Middle, and West.

Because the awards recognize high quality leadership, only schools where the principal has served for at least five years were considered.

Dr. Stone and Commissioner Huffman also presented The Luna Award, which recognizes a principal who has demonstrated character, the ability to inspire, and an unwavering dedication to students, staff, and the community they serve. This year's award was presented to Sarah Wallace, principal of the Ninth Grade Academy in Lincoln County.

Ms. Wallace was selected to launch the Ninth Grade Academy 11 years ago, and continues to lead the school today. According to Wanda Shelton, Director of Schools in Lincoln County, her dedication is unparalleled: The personal challenges she has faced, including the illness and loss of her husband, have never affected her performance or her commitment to the school.

"If I were to return to the classroom I would want to be in Mrs. Sarah Wallace's school," said Ms. Shelton. "I would want to work with someone who puts student learning first, who strives for excellence, who loves her school and her job, and who wants engaged student learning happening in every classroom every day."

"The principals we honor today through both the Value-Added Achievement Awards and the Luna Awards are the kinds of principals we want to see in every Tennessee school: dedicated leaders willing to do whatever it takes to create the conditions for student success," said Dr. Stone. "We are also pleased to highlight the fact that several of our principals are repeat winners, showing that such achievements can be sustained over time."

Additional information about the winners, including school performance charts, is available at www.education-consumers.org. Also posted there are "Recipes for Success" from each of the 18 principals and thoughts on what they have done as leaders to help their schools achieve.

The winning principals each receive a certificate, a banner and a cash award: \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, and \$1,000 for third place.

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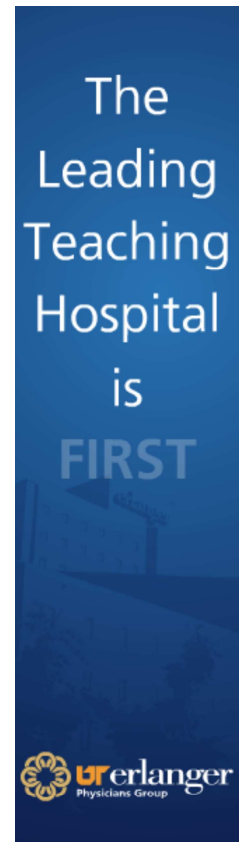
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Education reformers have made teacher quality a top concern in Tennessee and elsewhere – and rightly so. But without the support of a great principal, working quietly behind the scenes to create ... (click for more)

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Education Consumers Foundation Recognizes 18 State Principals Including Normal Park's Jill Levine

Education reformers have made teacher quality a top concern in Tennessee and elsewhere – and rightly so. But without the support of a great principal, working quietly behind the scenes to create the conditions for success, even the best teachers will inevitably be limited in what they can accomplish in the classroom. The Education Consumers Foundation, therefore, has recognized ... (click for more)

Stephenson Awarded Lee's Excellence In Scholarship Award

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology Dr. Lisa Stephenson has been named the 2012 recipient of Lee University's Excellence in Scholarship Award. This award is one of three faculty awards that recognize excellence in teaching, scholarship and advising and are considered the highest honors presented to Lee faculty each year. The Excellence in Scholarship award winner ... (click for more)

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Chattanooga Police, after finding the body of a black female on the porch of a house at 3016 12 th Ave. late Sunday night, have charged a resident of the house with her murder. Carlos Juan Harrison, 18, was taken into custody on charges of criminal homicide and tampering with evidence.. Police said the victim is a juvenile. It was first reported she was between ... (click for more)

Woman Says Loftis Called To Say, "We Beat The Crap Out Of This Dude, And He's Dead"

A Cleveland, Tn., woman testified Monday in Hamilton County General Sessions Court that Chance Loftis called her at work and said, "We beat the crap out of this dude, and he's dead. It's on the news." Jennifer Bales she said tried not "to wig out in front of a patient," but she said she "knew I was in trouble" for taking Loftis and Travis Jenkins to Possum Creek in Birchwood ... (click for more)

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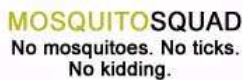
As I watched The Players golf tournament Saturday and Sunday, my insides were absolutely churning for Kevin Na, who agonized over almost every shot before he hit it. Kevin, who led the tournament after the first three rounds, is a neat guy whose family moved to the United States from Seoul, South Korea, when he was six after his grandfather was once a Justice on Korea's Supreme ... (click for more)

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John Sevier among top ET schools

By Matthew Stewart | matts@thedailytimes.com

NASHVILLE — John Sevier Elementary School was named Monday as one of East Tennessee's top three elementary schools

The school won third place among East Tennessee's elementary schools in the 2012 Value-Added Achievement Awards. The Education Consumers Foundation (ECF) recognized the achievements of Principal Rick Wilson and 17 other principals whose students had made the most academic gains, according to the Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS), during a ceremony at the Tennessee Supreme Court



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TVAAS measures achievement gain in a way that permits schools to be compared regardless of the makeup of their student body. Instead of ranking schools by how their students simply score on a standardized test, the accountability system provides information to teachers, parents and the public on how schools are doing in helping each child make academic gains each year

ECF presented first-, second- and third-place awards in two categories: elementary and middle schools in each of Tennessee's three geographic regions. Winning principals receive a certificate, banner and cash award

John Sevier Elementary School will receive \$1,000 for its third-place award

In previous years, ECF selected winners on the basis of their three-year average TVAAS scores in reading/language arts and math. The organization changed its ranking model this year to reflect a more comprehensive approach to student achievement

Currently, ECF's rankings are being made using schools' letter grades for reading/language arts, math, science and social studies. Each school's reading/language arts and math scores are double-weighted to reflect the importance of these areas

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ECF calculates a “grade point average” and uses a complementary measure — the new three-year average Literacy/Numeracy Growth Index — as a secondary factor!

School officials pleased

John Sevier’s award was the second state recognition this school year

In September, the school was one of three finalists in the first State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) Prize’s elementary division. The SCORE Prize honored schools that have most dramatically improved student achievement in spite of the challenges they face.

“Both recognitions validate the great teaching and leadership at John Sevier Elementary School,” said Director of Schools Stephanie Thompson. Rick (Wilson) is focused on the big picture and advancing the entire system. He stresses the importance of sharing best practices and resources, challenging each other, helping each other and improving our school system. Not to mention, he’s a quality leader who has developed the skills of his teachers. “John Sevier has a lot of less experienced teachers, and it takes a good leader to move any staff to the next level. We congratulate the faculty, staff and students for their accomplishments.”

Assistant Director of Schools Mike Winstead emphasized the school’s high scores in achievement and academic growth.

“This award is a great example of how you can show gains with high-achieving students,” Winstead said. “John Sevier is focused on producing results that show both student gains (with value-added scores) and outstanding student achievement (with straight-A’s on the school report card).”

John Sevier Elementary School was one of fewer than 20 Tennessee elementary schools that received all A’s in achievement and value-added data this school year, according to the state Report Card. The state has 755 elementary schools.

Reflection of entire system

Wilson wanted to publicly thank system-level administrators and his fellow principals for their support.

“We wouldn’t have been able to attain this award without the collegiality in our system,” he said. “We’re always sharing things with each other that ultimately make their way back into our classrooms. In many ways, this award is a reflection of our entire system!”

Wilson was also humbled to know the school’s success stories are posted on ECF’s website. As a principal and educator, that’s what it’s all about for me. Educators from across the state can pick things up and learn new ways to help their children. If our success helps one child in another district then it’s all worth it.

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Pictured are, from left, Dr. J.E. Stone, president of the Education Consumers Foundation; The Discovery School Principal Debbie Bogdan; and state Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman.

Written by Colleen Creamer The Dickson Herald

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The Education Consumer's Foundation awarded Principal Debbie Bogdan after The Discovery School that she helms finished third out of all Middle Tennessee elementary schools in the foundation's 2012 value-added achievement awards. The awards ceremony was held Monday in Nashville at the Tennessee Supreme Court where 18 principals statewide were awarded honored.

Winners were selected from Tennessee's nearly 1,300 public elementary and middle schools. First, second and third place awards were given in two categories, elementary and middle schools, in each of Tennessee's three regions: East, Middle, and West. Winners were selected on learning gains across an entire student body, as measured by Tennessee's Value Added Assessment System. TVAAS assesses gains made by schools in a way that compares them regardless of the demographic of the student body.

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"Dickson County has been represented at this event five times, twice by Dickson Middle School and three times by the Discovery School," said Bogdan. "I feel confident Dickson County will continue to be represented in the future because all of the great work taking place in all of our schools."

Different from previous years in which the ECF based winner selections on three-year-average TVAAS scores in reading/language arts and math, this year the foundation took a broader approach. They based rankings using the school's letter grades for reading/language arts, math, science and

social studies. Reading/language arts and math scores were double-weighted to reflect their importance, and a "grade point" average was then calculated.

The foundation takes the stance that, "without the support of a great principal working quietly behind the scenes to create the conditions for success, even the best teachers will inevitably be limited in what they can accomplish in the classroom."

Only principals who had served at the school for at least five years were eligible in order to assess leadership across time. The winning principals each received a certificate, a banner and a case award ranging from \$3,000 to \$1,000 dependent upon place.

"If every school performed at the level of our winners, Tennessee would lead the nation in educational improvement," said state Commissioner of Education, Kevin Huffman.

The Education Consumer's Foundation is a nonprofit consumer organization that gathers and disseminates information on education policy on behalf of parents, taxpayers and elected officials.

For more information on the Foundation's visit:
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Helton

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SMYRNA — After six years at the helm, Thurman Francis Arts Academy Principal Andra Helton won't return to the school this fall.

She recently told her staff in person and let parents know via a school-wide recorded message.

"It has nothing to do with any situation at school. I love the kids, the parents and the staff. The journey's just over now," Helton said.

Her last day of work will be June 15. Helton began her career with the district 29 years ago and started as a speech therapist, working at John Coleman School, Smyrna Elementary and Middle. She spent several years teaching sixth-grade math and science

at Campus School before moving to the K-8 magnet school seven years ago.

First-grade parent Jessie Clark said she was caught off guard by Helton's message last Thursday, which started by reminding parents that school was not in session on Good Friday.

"I told my daughter and she didn't want Dr. Helton to leave. It was exciting to hear a 6-year old say that. That tells me she's a hands-on principal and just doesn't sit in her office and push paperwork. She's a big part of their universe and has really connected with them," Clark said.

Beth Binkley, whose sons are in eighth, fourth and first grades, said Helton has always been receptive to the needs of parents and students.

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"She came in and started making visual improvements to the school and greets the kids each morning. I've been very impressed with her," said Binkley, who heads up the school's annual Ram Run fundraiser.



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Helton plans to continue her career in education, but declined to say in what capacity.

“It was hard to tell the staff, but I felt it was important for me to encourage them and let them know what a good job they’ve done.

This year’s been really challenging (with changes from the state Department of

Education), but we got through it,” Helton said.

Director of Schools Harry Gill Jr., who is also retiring this year, said the principal’s leadership has been “outstanding.”

“As a testament to her performance, she’s going to be recognized by the Education Consumers Foundation for the school’s value-added and achievement scores,” he said.

The school has been notified that it has placed first in Middle Tennessee in the middle school division for the Education Consumers Foundation award, for which Helton will be recognized later this school year.

— Mealand Ragland-Hudgins, 615-278-5189



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Little Milligan School excels through community and caring for students

By [Jason R. Mullins](#)

In an era where education in the United States has embraced value-added test scores, standardized testing and the policies of the No Child Left Behind Act, administrators and teachers at one Carter County elementary school are achieving success through unconventional methods.



J.R. Campbell

Nestled along a section of mountain byway on U.S. Highway 321, Little Milligan Elementary School is located in one of the most rural sections of Carter County. The K-8 school, which has a present enrollment of 155 students, prides itself on a strong sense of community and family.

J.R. Campbell has been principal at LMES for the past 11 years. A native of Carter County and the Little Milligan community, Campbell makes a point of speaking to every student, teacher and support staff member as he walks past them in the hallways of the school.

The LMES principal said the school was recently asked to develop a mission statement. “More important than standardized test scores or value-added numbers is one simple fact,” he said. “I want every person who walks down this hallway to feel like the most important person who has ever walked through this school.”

Ray Don Markland is the Assistant Principal and an upper grade reading teacher for LMES. A 19-year veteran of Little Milligan, Markland believes the success of the school and what makes it a special place can be attributed to a “sincere concern for the students. We know all of the kids by name. I have several kids who are the children of my former students. We know the kids. We know their families. We know the community,” Markland said.

Suzette Markland, 5-8 English teacher, has also taught at the school for 16 years. “The ultimate difference in being able to teach a child is not how much education they have. It’s not about where they’re from or what gender they are. It’s not about any of those things. It’s 100 percent about loving the kids and being concerned about them as people,” Markland said.

Both Marklands commented that Campbell, who is also a third grade teacher at LMES, demonstrates his concern, his compassion and his caring for every student at the school on a daily basis. They believe his success as principal and as a teacher can be attributed to his genuineness. “He truly likes people. He has the ability to make everyone feel special,” said Mrs. Markland.

Campbell recently learned that he was named as one of 18 individuals in Tennessee to be recognized as one of the most effective principals in the state by the Education Consumers Foundation. He earned Third Place in the East Region. Unlike most education awards, the foundation noted the contest is entirely based on objectively measured achievement gains.

The top three elementary schools from the Volunteer State’s three Grand Divisions were chosen based on their average achievement gains from the last three school years. The Education Consumers Foundation excluded schools with principals who have served less than five years at their current school.

Little Milligan Elementary School will receive a \$1,000 cash prize as part of the award. The foundation stresses that the money is given to each winning school “with no strings attached.”

The school will be able to use the money in the way they best see fit to improve educational services.

The 18 educators named as the Principals of the Year will be recognized in a special ceremony on Monday, May 14, at the Tennessee Supreme Court in Nashville. Each principal will be presented with a certificate, a flag and a check at the event.

Campbell said he is honored to receive the recognition. He admits, “I don’t know much about value-added. I don’t know much about the different categories. But I do understand what it takes to have a good school. I think that’s why we were selected for this award. I really do have the best job in the State of Tennessee. Last year, I had only one student who was sent to my office. That’s because he told me he had to have the last word. I told him I had to have the last word,” Campbell joked.

In addition to Campbell, LMES teacher Melissa McClain was also recently honored by the Worth Ave. Group’s “Teacher of the Year” contest. The company specializes in providing insurance for consumer electronics, including laptops, desktops, iPhones and many other types of products.

McClain said the winners of the contest were selected by online voting. She noted, “When the faculty first learned about the contest, we felt as if there was no way to compete with the larger schools and systems all over the nation. Through prayers, emails, word of mouth and social networking, the contest grew and grew.”

As the contest progressed, McClain said she was amazed by the number of students, teachers and community members who went online to social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, to

ask for support. "I received notifications from students and emails from friends and family telling me about the people who were voting for us. It was almost as if the contest took on a life of its own," she said.

When the voting period ended and the votes were tallied, McClain learned she had finished in second place for teacher of the year. Worth Ave. Group will award Little Milligan Elementary a \$1,000 technology grant. McClain will also receive a new Apple iPad. "To come in second place in the entire nation in voting is a great accomplishment for Little Milligan," she commented. "I am truly honored by the support shown for Little Milligan, and for myself. This is a great thing for our school, and we are pleased to have been a part of the contest."

Staff members at Little Milligan commented that despite the challenges created by the number of economically disadvantaged students, they work together as a family to prepare students to succeed throughout their lives.

The Marklands commented that they also believe the rural location of the school is one of its greatest strengths. "In some ways," said Mrs. Markland, "the values are from a different time. We don't have the problems with discipline that a lot of other schools have. We can leave the room for a minute and the students don't go wild while we're gone."

Campbell said Little Milligan Elementary is a special place because of the community, the teachers, the students and its location. "This is truly a great place for kids to go to school," he said. "School and church are a lot alike. You bring them in. You show them love. Everything else is easy. If you want a kid to learn, you have to love them."

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Tuesday May 15, 2012



Wallace earns Luna Award

Posted on Monday, May 14, 2012 at 5:32 pm

The Education Consumers Foundation (ECF) has honored Sarah Wallace, principal at Ninth Grade Academy, with The Luna Award, which recognizes a principal who has demonstrated character, the ability to inspire and an unwavering dedication to students, staff and the community.

Wallace was selected to launch the Ninth Grade Academy 11 years ago and continues to lead the school today.

According to Dr. Wanda Shelton, director of schools in Lincoln County, Wallace's dedication is unparalleled — the personal challenges she has faced, including the illness and loss of her husband, have never affected her performance or her commitment to the school, Shelton said.

"If I were to return to the classroom I would want to be in Mrs. Sarah Wallace's school," said Shelton. "I would want to work with someone who puts student learning first, who strives for excellence, who loves her school and her job and who wants engaged student learning happening in every classroom every day."



Sarah Wallace

During a ceremony held Monday at the Tennessee Supreme Court, Wallace was joined by 18 principals from across Tennessee who received Value-Added Achievement Awards which recognize learning gains across a school's entire student body as measured by Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS).

"The principals we honor today through both the Value-Added Achievement Awards and the Luna Award are the kinds of principals we want to see in every Tennessee school: dedicated leaders willing to do whatever it takes to create the conditions for student success," said Dr. J.E. Stone, ECF president.

The Luna Award, established in 2011, is named after Elisa Luna, principal of Inskip Elementary in Knox County. Gravely wounded in a shooting at the school, Luna came back to again lead the school she loved. It is this kind of dedication ECF wanted to showcase, and the foundation permanently commemorated and honored Luna with the naming of the award.

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« Education

Two area principals honored in Nashville

Published May 14, 2012

By Staff Reports - JohnsonCityPress.com



Two area educators were presented Monday with Value-Added Achievement Awards by the Education Consumers Foundation during the foundation's annual awards ceremony in Nashville.

Teresa Leonard, principal of Boones Creek Elementary, was awarded first place in the elementary school division for East Tennessee, while J.R. Campbell, principal of Little Milligan, was awarded third place in the K-8/middle school division for East Tennessee.

Leonard and Campbell were among the 18 principals from nearly 1,300 public elementary and middle schools across the state who were honored at the ceremony held at the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The event honors principals who are doing a superior job as determined by Tennessee's Value-Added Assessment System, or TVAAS, which measures achievement gain in a way that permits schools to be compared regardless of the student body's makeup. Schools whose students make the greatest annual gains in achievement earn the highest value-added scores.

Rankings are made using schools' letter grades for reading/language arts, math, science and social studies. Reading/language arts and math scores are double-weighted to reflect the importance of these areas. A grade point average is calculated using the three-year average Literacy/Numeracy Growth Index as a secondary factor. The winning principals each receive a certificate, a banner and a cash award: \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third place.

Only schools where the principal has served for at least five years were considered.

For more on the awards, visit www.education-consumers.org.

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Principals recognized for leadership, student outcomes

By Lydia X. McCoy

Posted May 14, 2012 at 6:56 p.m.

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Rick Wilson

The Education Consumers Foundation on Monday honored 18 principals from across the state as part of its annual Value-Added Achievement Awards given to recognize quality leadership.

Brett Pawlowski, spokesman for the consumer advocacy agency that has been collecting and analyzing data from the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, said there are superlative Tennessee schools that deserve recognition.

"So many people put the emphasis on teacher quality that they overlook the role of the principal ... as the manager of the school," he said.

Only principals in their role for five years or more are eligible for the award.

Among this year's winners was John Sevier Elementary School principal Rick Wilson. In a statement, Wilson said he was proud to accept the award on behalf of his school and Maryville City Schools.

"Sharing best practices is an important part of what we do every day throughout the Maryville City Schools," he said. "Our three major focus areas at (John Sevier) are teach to the child, create and cultivate positive relationships and focus on families."

The group also presented the Luna Award, named after Inskip Elementary School principal Elisa Luna.

In 2010, Luna and Assistant Principal Amy Brace were in the school's office when fourth-grade teacher Mark Stephen Foster shot them both after finding out his teaching contract wasn't being renewed.

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Foster was charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder. He later pleaded guilty, receiving a 56-year prison sentence.

The Luna Award, presented to Sarah Wallace, principal of the Ninth Grade Academy in Lincoln County, recognizes a principal who has demonstrated character, the ability to inspire and an unwavering dedication to students, staff and the community.

Pawlowski said the award recognizes the intangibles of a principal beyond student outcomes, including leadership and dedication.



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Friday, May 18th, 2012, 1:38pm

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Barbara Beaver, principal of Alton Elementary School, is the recipient of a 2012 Value-Added Achievement Award. The Education Consumers Foundation (ECF) recognized Beaver and 17 other elementary and middle school principals across the state as the most effective leaders in Tennessee.

Each of these principals are recognized and honored based on their school's Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) scores. TVAAS scores measure gains in student achievement and permit schools to be compared regardless of differences in student body composition.

"These 18 principals show what a dedicated principal and teaching force can achieve in Tennessee schools," noted ECF President Dr. J. E. Stone. "If every school performed at the level of our 18 winners, Tennessee would lead the nation in educational improvement."

In previous years, winners were selected on the basis of their three-year average TVAAS scores in reading/language arts and math. This year, the Foundation changed its ranking model to reflect a more comprehensive approach to student achievement. Rankings are now made using schools' letter grades for reading/language arts, math, science and social studies; reading/language arts and math scores are double-weighted to reflect the importance of these areas.

"Value-added achievement is a central focus as we work to boost student achievement across the state, and these education leaders are shining examples of what's possible in Tennessee," said Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Tennessee Department of Education.

Information provided by Memphis City Schools.

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Dear Readers,

The Messenger
Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Dresden principal honored by state

Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2012 4:22 pm

Nashville – In an awards ceremony held Monday at the Tennessee Supreme Court, 18 principals across the state were lauded for their leadership.

Among those chosen for a Value-Added Achievement Award, Dresden Elementary School principal Mike Laughrey received a first-place ranking in elementary schools for West Tennessee.

In a release issued by Education Consumers Foundation, education reformers have made teacher quality a top concern in Tennessee and elsewhere. Without the support of a great principal, working quietly behind the scenes to create the conditions for success, even the best teachers will inevitably be limited in what they can accomplish in the classroom, the release stated.

Winners were selected based on the most important school measurement available – learning gains across the entire student body, as measured by Tennessee’s Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS). TVAAS measures achievement gain in a way that permit schools to be compared regardless of the makeup of the student body. Schools whose students make the greatest annual gains in achievement earn the highest value-added scores.

“These 18 principals show what a dedicated principal and teaching force can achieve in Tennessee schools,” ECF president Dr. J.E. Stone said.

“If every school performed at the level of our 18 winners, Tennessee would lead the nation in education improvement.”

“I am pleased to join with the Education Consumers Foundation in recognizing some of our most effective principals and schools,” Tennessee Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman said.

“Value-added achievement is a central focus as we work to boost student achievement across the state, and these education leaders are shining examples of what’s possible in Tennessee,” Huffman added.

“The main reason for our success at Dresden Elementary is the school wide culture that we have created. We are a medium size Pre-K–4th grade, serving approximately 500 students in a rural area,” Laughrey said.

“We are a Title 1 school with 80 percent of our students on free or reduced lunch. This scenario presents many challenges. Our philosophy is, ‘The best part of the day for the majority of our students is when they are at school.’ With this mind we have created a culture where students are made to feel very much a part of the school. They want to be successful and exhibit this through hard work and good behavior,” Laughrey added.



Dresden Elementary School principal Mike Laughrey

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Normal Park Museum Magnet principal receives Achievement Award

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Posted: May 14, 2012 6:59 AM EDT
Updated: May 14, 2012 6:59 AM EDT



(WRcB) - A principal from Hamilton County is by recognized by The Education Consumers Foundation through its "Value Added Achievement Awards".

Normal Park Museum Magnet School principal Jill Levine is one of 18 principals being honored across the state.

The winners are selected on learning gains across the entire student body.

ECF president Dr. J. E. Stone says "These 18 principals show what a dedicated principal and teaching force can achieve in Tennessee schools. If every school performed at the level of our 18 winners, Tennessee would lead the nation in educational improvement".

The awards will be presented during a ceremony May 14th, at the Tennessee Supreme Court

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Maureen 14 hours ago
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 Updated: May 14, 2012 10:05 PM EDT
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 Updated: May 14, 2012 9:40 PM EDT
 CHATTANOOGA (WRcB) - Two suspects charged with the murder of a Cleveland man faced a judge Monday. Chance Loftis and Travis Jenkins were both in court, where each case was sent to a grand jury on criminal
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