



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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July 13, 2017

TO: Superintendents
Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Director, Office of Charter Schools
Dale Armstrong, Division Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Adam Johnson, Superintendent, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
Rick Smith, Director of Education Services, Division of Adult Correction
Barbria Bacon, Superintendent, Education Services for the Deaf and Blind

FROM: Maria Pitre-Martin, Ph.D. *MPM*
Deputy State Superintendent

William J. Hussey, Director *WJH*
Exceptional Children Division

2017 EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION

The Exceptional Children Division's 67th Conference on Exceptional Children will be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on November 16- 17, 2017. It is our desire to pay special tribute to educators of exceptional children and to present the 2017 Educator of Excellence Award to each nominee at the conference.

We will recognize one educator from each of the 115 school systems, one each from the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Division of Prison Education Services, Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities, and one educator per region from charter schools. Each educator will:

- Have special seating during the Thursday morning plenary session.
- Have his/her name listed with appropriate information in the conference program.
- Attend a ceremony in his/her honor on Thursday evening.
- Have his/her picture displayed at the conference.

Each recipient of the Educator of Excellence Award will receive a paid registration to the conference and one roundtrip mileage reimbursement to and from the conference. **The EC Division will register each nominee for the conference.** It is the responsibility of the school system, charter school or state agency to reimburse the nominated teacher for lodging and subsistence. If the nominee wishes to attend an Institute at the conference, the nominee should register and submit payment for the Institute.

To facilitate the selection process, the Exceptional Children Division requests that:

- Local school systems identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children.
- Education Services for the Deaf and Blind identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children.
- Charter schools identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children. (One per region will be selected).

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- Division of Prison Education Services identify one teacher or related service provider of exceptional children from the schools under its oversight.

The nominee must:

- Have a continuing license if a teacher.
- Have at least a Class G license if an audiologist, a speech-language pathologist or school psychologist; or be licensed by the appropriate licensing board if an occupational therapist or a physical therapist.
- Be an employee or direct hire of the nominating LEA.
- Provide direct instruction or therapy/services to students with disabilities 70% of the time.
- Be recognized as a leader in service to the school and/or school system through innovative instructional programs or methodologies that have demonstrated positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

Consideration should also be given to the person whose leadership, dedication, and service in extracurricular and nonacademic activities have improved the quality of education for exceptional children and youth. It is the responsibility of the nominating entity to ensure that the nominee selected demonstrates a positive reflection on the educational profession. Recipients of the award during the past five (5) years should not be nominated this year.

Details about the person selected should be submitted electronically. The submission should contain:

1. PDF of a letter that describes the person's contributions as mentioned above (the letter must carry the signatures of the Superintendent and the Exceptional Children Program Director on school system letterhead);
2. One (1) 3" x 5" digital color photograph (jpg) of the person; and
3. **Nomination Form** (electronic) with all fields completed.

All packet documents are to be submitted electronically by Friday, September 15, 2017. Please submit nomination by using one of the following links:

Traditional LEAs, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Division of Prison Education Services, Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities, Education Services for the Deaf and Blind: <http://form.jotform.us/form/51803997994172>

Charter Schools: <http://form.jotform.us/form/51864540758161>

We look forward to your participation in this event to recognize and honor Exceptional Children Educators of Excellence. You may direct any questions or concerns to Julie Whetzel at Julie.whetzel@dpi.nc.gov.

MPM/WJH/jw