



ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

FEBRUARY 2006

WHAT'S INSIDE ...

- Katrina Funding
- Good News
- ALRC Resources
- Presidential Awards
- Professional Development



It isn't just "shop" or "home ec" anymore.



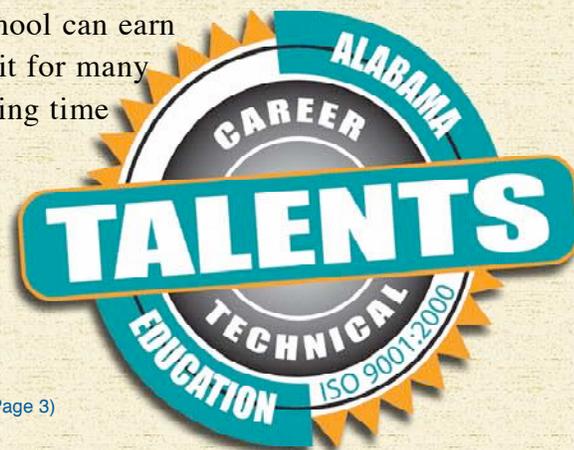
CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career/Technical Education (CTE) for high school students has changed significantly since the 1960s and 1970s when boys took auto shop or woodworking and girls learned to cook, sew, and properly set the table in home economics classes. Move over baby boomers, it's the 21st century and CTE is producing highly trained graduates prepared to compete in today's cutting-edge occupations.

Careers as certified automotive technicians making \$100,000 a year, executive chefs in upscale restaurants starting at \$84,000 per year, and computer Web site designers earning \$78,000 annually are a few professions

Alabama's CTE students are ready for when they graduate from high school. And how's this for an added incentive to continue into higher education? CTE high school students headed to college or technical school can earn college credit for many courses, saving time and money.

Alabama CTE is a statewide program designed to



(Continued on Page 3)

Board Briefs

The Alabama State Board of Education's EDUCATIONAL RULER: Making & Measuring Progress Grade by Grade



Every Student Should Have:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Safe & Disciplined Schools | + | Character Education/Student Responsibility and Conduct Standards |
| Quality Teachers | + | Evaluations/Testing/Accountability |
| Challenging Curricula | + | Professional Development |
| Effective School Leaders | | Outstanding Programs Preparing Teachers |
| | | Alabama Reading Initiative |
| | | Alabama Math, Science, & Technology Initiative |
| | | Comprehensive Courses of Study/Technology Availability |
| | | Career/Technical Programs Meeting International Business & Industry Standards |
| | | Emerging Leaders |
| | | Principals Leadership Academy |
| | | Superintendents Academy |
- Students Prepared for College/Work/Adulthood in the 21st Century

- Passed Resolution Proclaiming January 23-27, 2006, Technology Impact in Education Week in Alabama
- Passed Resolution Proclaiming February 12-18, 2006, Alabama Career/Technical Education Week
- Passed Resolution Commending Ann Driggers, "Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter," January-March 2006
- Passed Resolution Honoring Director Tommy Warren and Disability Determination Services
- Passed Resolution Honoring David Lovingood, Alabama Disability Determination Services Supervisor, Recipient of the Lewis Buckingham Award
- Passed Resolution Honoring Denise Dark, Jeter Primary School, Opelika City School System, Outstanding Early Childhood Practitioner for 2005
- Passed Resolutions Commending Pine Level Elementary School, Autauga County School System; Moody Elementary School, Saint Clair County School System; Ivalee Elementary School and John Jones Elementary School, Etowah County School System; Endeavor Elementary School, Madison County School System; Phil Campbell Elementary School, Franklin County School System; West Jasper Elementary School, Jasper City School System; Verner Elementary School, Tuscaloosa City School System; Moundville Elementary School, Hale County School System; Lipscomb Elementary School and Warrior Elementary School, Jefferson County School System; Kate D. Smith DAR Elementary School, Marshall County School System; St. Elmo Elementary School, Mobile County School System; Mt. Olive Elementary School, Russell County School System; and Troy Elementary School, Troy City School System as Alabama Reading Initiative Demonstration Sites for August 2005-May 2006
- Passed Resolutions Recognizing the 2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Finalists
- Received Resolution for Adoption of Arts Education and Languages Other Than English – Foreign Languages State Courses of Study
- Approved Issuance of Alabama Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Teacher's Certificate
- Passed Resolution Supporting January as School Board Member Recognition Month
- Approved *Lee v. Macon* Desegregation Consent Decree on Facilities Report

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching



Fewer than 200 math and 200 science teachers throughout the nation are selected each year as state finalists in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Five Alabama teachers joined this elite company of mathematicians and scientists last month. Alabama's PAEMST state finalists were honored by the Alabama Board of Education during the Board's monthly K-12 board meeting in Montgomery on Jan. 12.

"The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the nation's highest honor for K-12 math and science teachers, and I am extremely proud of these five exemplary teachers from Alabama classrooms," said **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**. "Their achievements demonstrate how much we've accomplished in the fields of math and science, as well as the need to continue to excel in math and science. Increased funding is needed for statewide implementation of the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI). The current budget request includes an additional \$7 million for AMSTI, which would

(Continued on Page 9)



l-r: Ginger Montgomery, Presidential Awards Alabama Science Coordinator; **Science Finalists** Philip Holley, Mountain Brook Junior High School, Mountain Brook City Schools; Dr. Mark Jones, Drake Middle School, Auburn City Schools; and Cinda Preuit, Speake High School, Lawrence County Schools; **Mathematics Finalists** Mary Hand, Liberty Middle School, Madison City Schools; and Karen Watts, Douglas High School, Marshall County Schools; and Dr. Sarah Mason, Presidential Awards Alabama Mathematics Coordinator.

(Continued from Page 1)

prepare students for college and a variety of career opportunities in the fields of Agriscience, Business/Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Science, and Technical Education. This is accomplished by providing hands-on experience, internships, apprenticeships, and cooperative education.



Alabama Career/Technical Education Week • February 12-18



Additionally, CTE works closely with local and international businesses in different career fields to ensure students are equipped with the skills needed for lifelong academic and career success.

“Alabama’s CTE program gives students an effective means to become successful in today’s global society,” said **CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION INTERIM DIRECTOR SHERRY KEY**. “The possibilities are endless and we’re not talking about earning a median income, we’re talking about making a lot of money in careers that will endure for many years to come.”

CTE also offers students the chance to interact with their peers by participating in club-related activities. Statewide CTE student organizations include DECA (An Association of Business/Marketing Students), SkillsUSA, FBLA, FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), FFA, HOSA (Health Occupations Student Association), JAG (Jobs for Alabama’s Graduates), and TSA (Technology Student Association).

[CLICK HERE](#) and celebrate Alabama Career/Technical Education Week by learning more about Alabama’s CTE program. Also, don’t forget, we’ve moved into the 21st century, which requires more skills than carving those bookends or learning to use a washing machine. Not to say that those weren’t part of the “good ole days,” just not what’s required for today’s top occupations. 🍏



The Alabama Legislature convened its regular session in Montgomery on Jan. 10. Education-related bills and priorities to “keep an eye on” are:

- 📄 Fiscal Year 2007 Budget
- 📄 Senate Bill (SB) 0190 – 5% Teacher Pay Raise, Sen. Sanders & HB0294, Rep. Lindsey
- 📄 SB0210 – 180 Instructional Days, Sen. Sanders & HB0333, Rep. Thomas
- 📄 HB0289 – \$500 Million Public School Capital Outlay, Rep. Hubbard & SB0269, Sen. Waggoner
- 📄 House Bill (HB)0010 – SDE Determines Financial Ability to Form Local School Systems With Population Raised to 7,500, Rep. Oden
- 📄 HB0034 – Cell Phones, Pagers, Electronic Devices In Schools, Rep. Robinson
- 📄 HB0058 – Specifies *The Bible and Its Influence* as elective for High School, Rep. Guin
- 📄 HB0082 – Violation for Overtaking School Buses When Stopped, Rep. Davis & SB0128, Sen. Little
- 📄 HB0094 – School Fiscal Accountability Act, Rep. Graham & SB0106, Sen. Byrne
- 📄 HB0246 – Bullying In Public Schools, Rep. Spicer
- 📄 HB0343 – Helping Schools Tag Funds Distribution, Rep. Albritton
- 📄 HB0352 – \$15 Appropriation For Public School Science Courses, Rep. Hall
- 📄 SB0011 – Pledge of Allegiance Recited in Public Schools, Sen. Byrne
- 📄 SB0021 – Discharging a Firearm Into An Occupied/Unoccupied School Bus/School Building, Sen. Means & HB0125, Rep. Lindsey
- 📄 SB0045 – Academic Freedom Act, Sen. Mitchell & HB0106, Rep. Beason
- 📄 SB0184 – AMSTEC Provides for the Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Act and establishes the Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Coalition, Sen. Little.
- 📄 SB0255 – Indoor Air Quality In School Facilities, Sen. Escott

[CLICK HERE](#) for further information and/or to track the status of these and other legislative bills.

Good News

in Alabama Schools

ALABAMA DDS BIG WINNERS



Tommy Warren, Director
Disability Determination Service

For the second consecutive year, Tommy Warren was named National Disability Determination Service Director of the Year and received the Earl B. Thomas Award from the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE) at its national meeting in Boise, Idaho, in September.



nade

National Association of Disability Examiners

Under Warren's leadership, Alabama's Disability Determination Service (DDS) has successfully moved into a totally electronic processing of disability claims. In fiscal year 2005, its 392 employees processed and completed 85,626 disability claims. DDS also has established relationships with all local school systems to obtain records required by the Social Security Administration (SSA) when processing a child's disability claim. According to Warren, 28 percent of DDS claims are child claims.

David Lovingood, Coordinator of the Medical Relations Section, also was honored at the national conference with the Lewis Buckingham Award in recognition of his initiative and humanitarian efforts to further advance professionalism and the goals of DDS agencies.

Lovingood worked with the NADE and the SSA in developing a public relations campaign to be presented to the medical community nationwide on the SSA Electronic Folderless Disability Process.

And last, but not least, DDS was named the Southeast Region's Disability Determination Service of the Year and received the prestigious Eagle of Excellence Award in recognition of exceptional dedication and teamwork and for outstanding performance in such areas as production, quality, timeliness, and overall service to disability applicants in Alabama.

DDS, a Division of the Alabama Department of Education, is 100 percent federally funded by the SSA to serve the citizens of Alabama by providing a quality decision on all Social Security disability claims. Alabama DDS offices are located in Birmingham and Mobile.

PENNIES PILE IN FOR KATRINA VICTIMS

Submitted by Dawn Anderson Eaton, Pleasant Grove Elementary School Teacher and Parent

Great things are happening at Pleasant Grove Elementary School thanks in part to **MARY ELIZABETH EATON**, a fifth-grader, who asked students and staff to donate pennies in a penny drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mary Elizabeth was born in Louisiana, so she thought about what her family could have endured if they had not moved. This inspired her to ask her assistant principal, **LAURA DILL**, for permission to conduct the fundraiser, and with Ms. Dill's blessing the collection began.

The school made the collection a competition between the boys and girls. If the boys brought in the most money, the female coach, **BETH ULHMAN**, would have her hair dyed. If the girls brought in the most money, the male coach, **JOSH TAYLOR**, would have his hair dyed. If the students brought in over \$1,500, **PRINCIPAL JAY JACKS** would have his hair dyed along with both coaches.

On Oct. 13, the school presented United Way with a check for \$2,356.14. After the presentation, the principal, both coaches, and the physical education aide, **STEVE CAGLE**, had their hair dyed purple and gold. They sported the school colors all day in honor of the great work by the students.

*State Board of Education Member: Dr. Ethel Hall, District 4
Jefferson County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Phil Hammonds
Pleasant Grove Elementary School Principal: Jay Jacks*



LINDEN STUDENTS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER TO ELDERS

Led by an all-girl student council, Linden High School students generously gave of their time, talents, and money to help provide members of a local nursing home with a joyous holiday. As part of its commitment to the community, the Linden High School Student Council organized "Adopt a Grandparent Day."

Students raised money by selling paper angels and gifts for \$1 in order to buy items for residents of the Marengo County Nursing Home. About 150 angels were sold to help 20 residents to have a merrier holiday. Dressed in Santa hats, students began their visit to their adopted grandparents with holiday singing and ended the festivities by giving them goodie bags filled with toiletries and clothing items.

"Linden's student council is strongly committed to serving its duties to the school as well as the community," said **FACULTY ADVISOR BROOKE MOORING**. "After Hurricane Katrina's devastation, the council led a canned food drive to donate to victims. Additionally, the group also gave the school's halls a much-needed facelift when they teamed up to repaint the school."

*State Board of Education Member: Ella Bell, District 5
Linden City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Walter Davis
Linden High School Principal: Timothy Thurman*



LE FLORE HIGH SCHOOL DANCE TROUPE MEMBERS WILL KICK UP THEIR HEELS IN CHICAGO

The John LeFlore High School's Moving Images is Chicago-bound! The dance company has been selected to perform at the 2006 National School Boards Association annual conference in the Windy City on April 8.

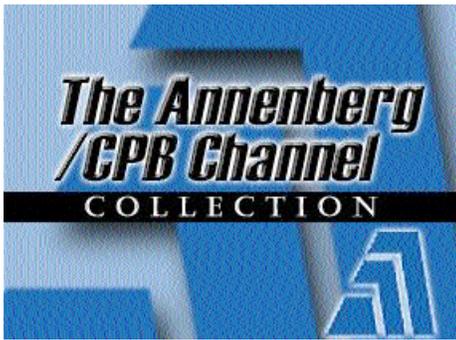
Moving Images, which began tapping their toes 15 years ago, is a performance-based company made up of 20 members who are required to audition each year. The students attend class five days a week and perform ballet, jazz, modern, and tap dance.

However, Chicago is not Moving Images' first major tour. They were chosen to perform on five occasions at the National High School Dance Festival held in Miami and Los Angeles. Additionally, the company represented the state by invitation at the International Dance Excellence in Los Angeles two years ago. The dancers also have performed at the Southeastern Regional Dance Festival in Montgomery.

Dance teacher **JOANN CHRISTOPHER** feels the program enhances students' lives in the forms of art and shapes careers not only in show business, but in other fields. "Dance is so disciplined," said Christopher. "They are passionate about their dance and their performance. You would not know you were in a school surrounding when you see them in class. They have wonderful creativity; one of my greatest joys is to see work they create themselves."

*State Board of Education Member: Randy McKinney, District 1
Mobile County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Harold Dodge
LeFlore High School Principal: Alvin Dailey*





Professional Development Resources At Your Fingertips



Quality video instruction for both education professionals and students is available for the asking. The Alabama Department of Education announces the availability of the *Annenberg/CPB Channel K-12* professional development and teaching resources.

This collection of Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science video programming is available at virtually no cost to educators statewide as yet another method of providing Alabama children with comprehensive courses of study via VHS tape and DVD. The Annenberg collection offers programming ranging from 30 minutes to two hours on a broad range of topics to teach and entertain students of all ages. It also offers instructional material that is appropriate for education professionals to provide professional development for teachers during in-service activities. The Alabama Department of Education has purchased the licensing rights to the Annenberg series and can provide either specific segments or the entire collection to educators at no charge for the programming – just the cost of providing VHS tapes or DVDs. **DR. RON WRIGHT**, coordinator of the Alabama Learning Resource Center (ALRC), encourages the use of DVDs for efficiency and convenience.

“Receiving the Annenberg series on DVD is less expensive than tape these days,” Wright said. “Plus DVDs are more convenient when it comes to storage and lighter when you’re shipping them.” He said whereas a VHS tape might cost the buyer \$1.04, a DVD is typically less than half the cost. This is the only cost absorbed by the recipient. “We’ll even pay postage to send the programming material back to the school or school system,” Wright said.

Because the Annenberg collection covers the Alabama core curriculum, Wright suggests schools request the entire collection. At a total cost of only \$150 in tapes and half of that in

DVDs, a school will receive more than 200 hours of quality instructional and professional development materials. In addition to providing informative subject matter and valuable lessons, the collection is broken into age-appropriate segments and is fun for kids.

For ordering information, [CLICK HERE](#), or to contact Dr. Ron Wright [CLICK HERE](#) or call 334-242-8071. 🍏

To: Alabama Educators
Cc:
Subject: Professional Development and Resources

Attachments: none

The 6th Annual Alabama School Communicators Conference will be held at Ross Bridge Resort in Hoover, Feb. 13-14. [CLICK HERE](#) for registration information or contact Cindy Warner, Shelby County Schools at 205-682-7000.

National Education Association's Read Across America Day-Building a Nation of Readers on March 2 promotes reading every day by providing resources and additional reading initiatives to reach out to parents, teen readers, and the Hispanic community. [CLICK HERE](#).

The 16th Annual Alabama Transitional Conference will be held at the Marriott Grand National Hotel and Conference Center in Auburn, March 13-15. [CLICK HERE](#).

The 88th Annual Alabama PTA Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Huntsville, April 21-22. [CLICK HERE](#).

The 2006 Mega Conference will be held in Mobile, July 10-14. [CLICK HERE](#).

Early Bird Registration Deadline: March 20

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The 2006 Labor Essay Contest is open to high school seniors planning to attend an accredited college following graduation. For essay guidelines, call 205- 595-1712. **Deadline: Feb. 28**

The Scholar Athlete Milk Mustache of the Year (SAMMY) 2006 Award Program recognizes 25 outstanding senior scholar athletes nationwide with \$7,500 scholarships and opportunities to be featured in a national Milk Mustache ad. SAMMY applications will be accepted online only, [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: March 3**

The Barry Gaskins Honorary Scholarship, presented by the Alabama School Communicators Association, is a \$500 scholarship awarded to a high school senior preparing for a public relations and communication career at an Alabama college or university. [CLICK HERE](#) for information or contact John Merrill, Tuscaloosa County Schools at 205-342-2787. **Deadline: March 30**

The National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest is open to fifth-graders nationwide. Students are encouraged to design and create posters reflecting the theme of "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." The winner will be honored at the National Missing Children's Day Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., on May 25, and the poster will represent child safety for the coming year. [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: March 30**

The 8th Annual Wildlife Forever State Fish Art Contest provides the opportunity for students in Grades 4-12 to win recognition and prizes while learning about their local and state fish and the conservation of aquatic habitats. [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: March 31**

The National D-Day Museum 2006 Student Online Essay Contest encourages high school students to write a 1,000 words or less essay on what lessons learned from World War II can help in overcoming today's challenges. Winners receive cash awards. [CLICK HERE](#) for guidelines. **Deadline: March 3**

The LAW DAY 2006 Essay & Poster Contest, sponsored by the Alabama Bar Association, is open to students in Grades K-6 (poster contest) and Grades 7-12 (essay contest). For ideas and information, [CLICK HERE](#). **Deadline: April 2**

Hurricane Katrina Education Aid Package Approved

Systems Receive in Excess of \$30 Million

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION **JOE MORTON** was pleased as punch to deliver the news that Congress approved \$1.6 billion in Hurricane Katrina funding for schools. Morton opened his Dec. 23, 2005, memorandum to state Board of Education members with ...

"I have never written a Christmas letter, so not wanting to break that tradition, I will call this a very modified version and restrict it to issues relating to hurricanes and funding and my personal involvement over the last part of this year."

The memo went on to outline the daily involvement and diligence it took pressing Congress and their staffs to ensure Alabama schools received funding to help rebuild facilities and help with the costs of extra students who flooded the state following Katrina.

Thanks in part to the persistence of **GOV. BOB RILEY**, local superintendents, and citizens in contacting Alabama's Congressional leaders, Alabama will receive in excess of 30 million federal dollars to help local school systems in dealing with the after-effects of Hurricane Katrina. "Without the money from Congress, the state would have had to cover the costs from Katrina," said Morton. "This will save the state close to \$32 million."

Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students includes support for both K-12 and higher education. K-12 schools stand to receive up to \$6,000 per displaced student (up to \$7,500 for students enrolled in special education) on a quarterly basis over the course of a year. Every Alabama school that enrolled displaced students will be reimbursed for local school system money spent on supplying textbooks, desks, chairs, additional bus routes, staffing, and more. The first two payments to local systems will be based on the number of displaced



students enrolled on Sept. 21, 2005, (5,685) and Nov. 21, 2005, (4,888).

Local school systems expecting to see *Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students* funding completed and submitted the required applications by Jan. 26.

Payments will be based on the number of displaced students enrolled on dates specified. Additionally, local systems were required to contact non-public schools to make them aware of the funding.

For hardest hit areas in the state like Baldwin and Mobile Counties, this relief package will help schools continue to provide the essentials necessary for a quality education experience. In Baldwin County, more than 475 evacuee students were enrolled as of Sept. 21, and Mobile County had 1,659. Baldwin County could stand to receive more than \$3.4 million while Mobile County could see at least \$9.95 million in federal aid.

DR. FARON HOLLINGER, Superintendent of Baldwin County Schools, said his system incurred maintenance costs needed to reopen schools; overtime costs involved with that effort; and costs associated with the provision of portables, furnishings, equipment, and more. "The relief funds will be used to replenish local funds and provide unique services such as special medical needs and counseling," stated Hollinger. "Our system expended funds for additional teachers, aides, special education aides, portables, textbooks, uniforms, and many more items necessary for the additional students." 🍏

THE CHRISTMAS LETTER



*Twas two days before Christmas
And all through the state
Superintendents shouted,
"We're getting a rebate!"*

*Joe Morton's Christmas Letter
Was filled with good news:
Congress approved millions
For Alabama schools.*

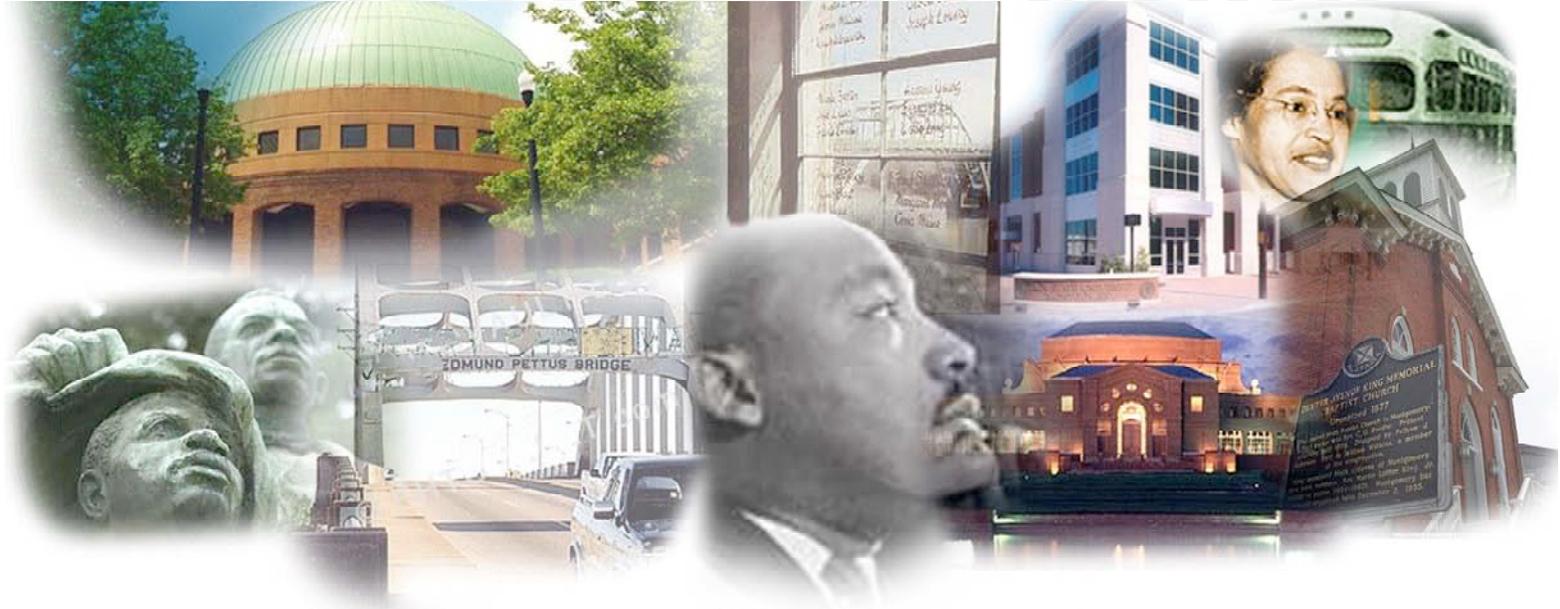
*The aftermath of Katrina
Left so many shattered.
We welcomed them gladly;
Money wasn't what mattered.*

*Whole buildings were gone
And lives torn apart
But, we banded together
And opened our hearts.*

*Reimbursement for Katrina
Will help make things right –
Making the school year merrier;
With money not as tight.*

*You could hear Joe Morton say
As he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to ya'll
And thanks for helping in this fight!"*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Birmingham *Birmingham Civil Rights Institute* - *Salute to African-American Scientists Workshop*, Feb. 4;
The People and the Movement: A Symposium, Feb. 17; and
The Paul R. Jones Collection through Feb. 25.
Southern Museum of Flight - *African American Aviation Month*, Feb. 4.

Mobile *National African-American Archives Museum*
Oakleigh House Museum - *Art with an African Heart*, Feb. 10.

Montgomery *Alabama Shakespeare Festival* - The play, *Pure Confidence* runs through Feb. 19.
Dexter Ave. Baptist Church
Rosa Parks Library and Museum

Tuskegee *George Washington Carver Museum*
The Oaks, Booker T. Washington's Home
Moton Field, Tuskegee Airmen Training Field

Troy *African American Leadership Conference* - Troy University Trojan Center, Feb. 3-4.

Prattville *Black History Program* - Doster Community Center, Feb. 17.

Anniston *26th Annual Black Heritage Festival* - Anniston Museum of Natural History, Feb. 11.

Hartselle *Black History Month Display* - Historic Hartselle Depot, Feb. 20-24.

Florence *Art from East Africa* - Kennedy - Douglass Center for the Arts through Feb. 10.

Talladega *Black History Month Exhibition* - Talladega College.

Source: Alabama Bureau of Tourism & Travel Web Site – www.800alabama.com

Calendar

FEBRUARY

American History Month
Black History Month
Children's Dental Health Month

2	Groundhog Day
8	Alabama PTA Legislative Advocacy Day
9	State Board of Education Meeting/Work Session
13-14	ASCA Conference/Career Tech Week
20	Washington/Jefferson Birthdays (STATE HOLIDAY)

MARCH

Arts Education Month
Music in Our Schools Month
Nutrition Month

2	Read Across America Day
9	State Board of Education Meeting
14	Pi Day
12	Children's Poetry Day
23	State Board of Education Work Session

(Continued from Page 2)

increase the total budget for AMSTI to \$22 million.”

Following the board meeting, this year's state finalists received the National Science Foundation State Certificate for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science during a banquet in their honor, which was funded by the National Science Foundation, at the RSA Plaza Terrace.

Established in 1983 by an Act of Congress and administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation, the goal of the PAEMST is to expand and exemplify the

definition of excellent science and mathematics teaching. One math and one science teacher will be selected from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and U.S. Department of Defense schools for the Presidential Awardee distinction. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspirations to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of math and science education. The White House will announce the nation's Presidential Awardees in March. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details. 🍏

TEACHER OF THE MONTH – JANUARY

Mount Carmel Elementary teacher **JAMIE SOLLEY** has been named Teacher of the Month for January. Solley encourages her young kindergarteners to “seize the day.” “Carpe Diem - seize the day - is my philosophy of teaching,” says Solley. “Each day I do whatever it takes to reach, teach, motivate and challenge every student in my classroom, leaving no child behind. I believe strong, effective teachers promote student learning by creating an atmosphere where children are challenged in positive ways.”

Solley has a bachelor's of science degree in Early Childhood Education from Athens State College and a bachelor's of arts degree in communication from the University of Alabama. As Teacher of the Month, she receives \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance and her school, Mt. Carmel Elementary School in the Madison County School System will receive a matching award from Alabama Farmers Federation.

A firm believer that assessment drives instruction, Solley has served as a trainer for the Alabama Department of Education in Beginning Reading Model and Dynamics of Basics Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and has assisted other schools in the state in learning how to organize and manage testing materials and interpret their results.

This year, Alfa Insurance and Alabama Farmers Federation will recognize one teacher from each state school board district as well as two private school teachers and two principals. For further information, [CLICK HERE](#).



Jamie Solley



VOL 29 • NO 5

February 2006

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

Alabama Board of Education Members

Gov. Bob Riley, President
Dist. 1 - Randy McKinney, Pres. Pro Tem, Gulf Shores
Dist. 2 - Betty Peters, Dothan
Dist. 3 - Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
Dist. 4 - Ethel H. Hall, V.P. Emerita, Fairfield
Dist. 5 - Ella B. Bell, Montgomery
Dist. 6 - David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
Dist. 7 - Sandra Ray, Vice Pres., Tuscaloosa
Dist. 8 - Mary Jane Caylor, Huntsville

Joseph B. Morton,
State Superintendent of Education
and Secretary and Executive Officer
of the Alabama Board of Education

Editorial Staff - (334) 242-9950
Managing Editor - Mitch Edwards
Editor - Rebecca Leigh White
Contributing Editor - Anne P. Graham
Contributing Editor - Michael O. Sibley
Contributing Editor - Ed Crenshaw
Graphic Artists - Mary Nell Shaw
Charles V. Creel

The Alabama Department of Education publishes *Alabama Education News* (USPS 387-290) monthly except for June, July, and December. Editorial offices are located in the Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery 36130-2101. *Alabama Education News* is composed by the Department of Education's Communication Section and printed by EBSCO Media of Birmingham. Periodicals are postage paid in Montgomery and at an additional mailing office.

This publication, authorized by Section 16-2-4 of the *Code of Alabama*, as recompiled in 1975, is a public service of the Alabama Department of Education designed to inform citizens and educators about programs and goals of public education in Alabama.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Alabama Education News*, Alabama Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.

Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.