



# ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007



## EACH ONE, TEACH ONE... THEN TEACH

**WHEN** it comes to classroom preparation and professional development, few tools provide more insight than experience. Very often, teachers are their own most valued resource in the classroom. This concept is the motivation behind Alabama Teacher Mentoring (ATM), **GOVERNOR BOB RILEY'S** Commission on Quality Teaching's goal of having seasoned mentors available for all new teachers.

Alabama's schools are full of the knowledge, talent, and skills that experienced teachers bring to the classroom every year. As a result, Alabama is encouraging teachers to exemplify those traits and share them with others embarking on careers in education. This new statewide program provides new teachers with mentors for their first two years in the classroom. It's a win-win scenario that gets new teachers started off on the right *continued on next page ...*

Experienced teachers who give of their time and talent to effectively guide new teachers through their first year on the job will receive a stipend per mentee of **\$1,000.**



## EACH ONE, TEACH ONE . . . THEN TEACH

*continued from front ...*

foot and gives veteran teachers an incentive for sharing their expertise.

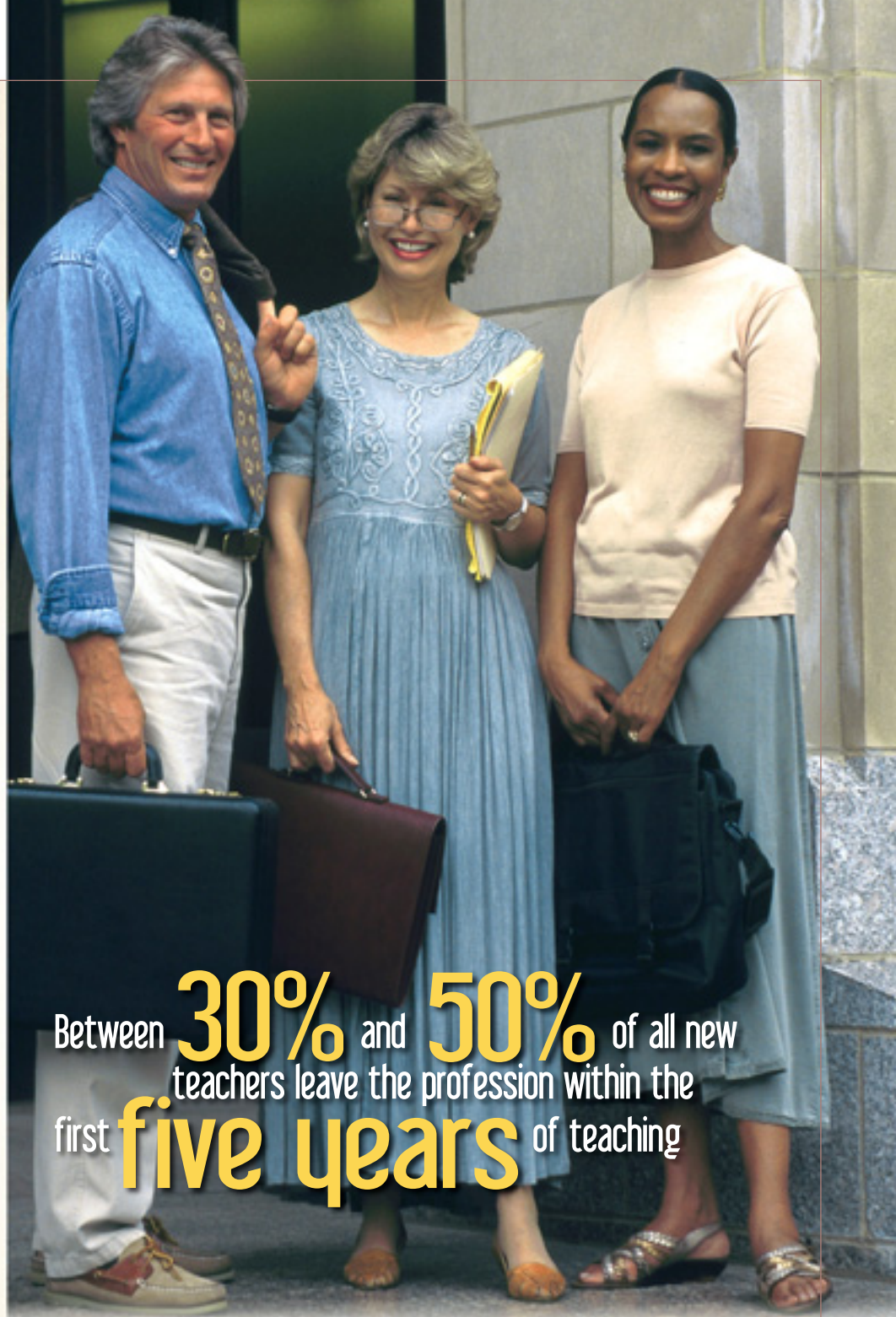
More experienced teachers who give of their time and talent to effectively guide new teachers through their first year on the job will receive a stipend of \$1,000 per mentee to which he or she is assigned. The 2008 Education Budget provides more than \$3.9 million to cover the cost. Much of this funding, however, may not be available to mentor teachers until November or December.

"This is just another step in building a truly great education system," Governor Riley said. "I think this is going to dramatically help teachers as they enter our classrooms for the first time. I think they'll do a better job, and I also think it's going to help with retention of teachers."

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** said between 30 percent and 50 percent of all new teachers leave the profession within the first five years of teaching. With them goes the investment made in their career as an educator in Alabama classrooms. "That costs the state a lot of money, and it robs the state of a lot of talent," Dr. Morton said.

"The mentoring program will keep keen, sharp, talented, young, highly professional teachers in the classroom."

Although new teacher mentoring is a good idea, it is not necessarily a new one. Many systems have had mentoring programs in



Between **30%** and **50%** of all new teachers leave the profession within the first **five years** of teaching

place already. Those systems, Morton said, will not discontinue their locally developed programs, nor do their personnel have to attend additional training as long as the program meets the state Department of Education developed mentoring guidelines. He said the intent of the ATM program is to assist those school systems that may not have had the time and/or resources to develop a comprehensive new teacher mentoring program.

"The ATM program is a big step forward for all Alabama schools. For some schools it will mean the start of a whole new level of support for new teachers," Morton said. "For others, it will simply provide state funding for an existing mentoring program." 🍏





# ALABAMA SCHOOLS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

**AS** the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results for the 2006-07 year were released, it became abundantly clear that Alabama schools are indeed making progress. This year, 82.25 percent of the state's schools (1,117 of 1,358 schools) met every single objective and made AYP. We laud the tremendous efforts of those students, teachers, and administrators who worked tirelessly to achieve this goal. Still, we recognize the remarkable gains of many schools that also progressed over the year, yet may have still been labeled as 'not making adequate yearly progress.'

There are a lot of stories in schools that show the school may be making significant progress, but just missed adequate yearly progress. A school may be making tremendous progress within the school walls on a daily basis, but by missing adequate yearly progress with one or two sub-groups of students, the school didn't make adequate yearly progress. It is important that these schools know their accomplishments are not going unnoticed. This year, the number of schools identified for School Improvement decreased by 67 percent, from 458 schools in 2006 to 154 schools in 2007. Incredibly, the

schools eligible to receive federal funds based on a poverty scale (Title I schools) decreased at a greater rate than non-poverty schools. Clearly, Alabama schools are moving in the

schools are labeled as schools that 'did not' make AYP. It is important that the public realizes what most teachers and administrators already know – not making AYP does not

*This year, we've raised the bar and seen a sharp decrease in the number of schools designated as needing 'school improvement'. – Governor Bob Riley*

right direction, and good things are taking place in classrooms and schools across our state. **GOVERNOR BOB RILEY**, who serves as the state school Board president, said Alabama's schools have made tremendous progress during the past few years.

"Just three years ago, only 23 percent of schools met all their yearly progress goals. This year, we've raised the bar and seen a sharp decrease in the number of schools designated as needing 'school improvement'," Riley said. "If we continue to expand proven programs like the Alabama Reading Initiative, Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative, and ACCESS Distance Learning, we'll increase the quality of teaching and learning across the state." An additional 175 Alabama schools made between 90 – 99.99 percent of their objectives, however, due to the stringent grading scale of *No Child Left Behind*, these

necessarily mean a school is "failing." In fact, on a traditional grading scale (100-90=A, 89.99-80=B, 79.99-70=C, etc.), only seven out of 1,358 schools in the state of Alabama would have "failed."

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** pointed out that *No Child Left Behind's* meticulous grading scale makes making AYP more difficult for schools with diverse populations because each sub-group of students has to reach its objectives in order for the school to make AYP. Some very homogeneous schools have as *continued on next page ...*





few as five sub-groups of students while some very diverse schools have as many as 37 sub-groups of students.

“Under this law, if a school had 25 measurable objectives and got 24 of those, missing just one, for example, missed limited-English proficient students in reading, and everything else was fine, under *No Child Left Behind* that school would not make adequate yearly progress. That’s a pretty rigorous scale. It means that you literally make 100 percent or you “fail,” and these schools are not really failing. A school that has 25 objectives and made 24 of those, in just about any classroom in America, would get an A. Under this system, they don’t pass,” Morton said. “After five years, the U.S. Congress is now in the process of reauthorizing the *No Child Left Behind* law. The state Board of Education and I have offered suggestions for improvement. One suggestion is to consider different consequences for schools based on the degree to which they miss AYP. That way, if a school misses AYP in just one area it is not treated the same as a school that misses it across the board.”

The challenges that face Alabama schools, and all schools across the country, continue to get more difficult as the nation marches toward the anticipated year of 100 percent student proficiency in America. Alabama is marching forward with a resolve to keep implementing the programs that are proven effective and constructively address the areas where student achievement is not meeting the challenge. Like any other form of progress, Alabama schools are not moving forward by accident or inevitability. Hard-working students, dedicated teachers and administrators, and involved parents along with well-planned, skillfully

*Under No Child Left Behind, a school that makes 24 of 25 objectives doesn't pass. This rigorous scale means that you literally make 100 percent or you "fail."*

– State Superintendent of Education  
Joe Morton

developed, and expertly implemented initiatives, are the fuel that keeps Alabama’s schools moving forward. Alabama has the right game plan for public school academic success. With continued support from Governor Bob Riley, the State Board members, and the Alabama Legislature, Alabama can stake its new image and future on becoming an educational leader. 🍎

## 2006-07 AYP SUMMARY

PERCENT OF GOALS MET	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS		PERCENT MEETING GOALS	
	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06
100 Percent	1,117	1,194	82.25	87.54
90 to 99.99	175	99	12.89	7.26
80 to 89.99	42	43	3.09	3.15
70 to 79.99	8	6	0.59	0.44
60 to 69.99	9	5	0.66	0.37
Less than 60 Percent	7	17	0.52	1.25
<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**82.25%** of Alabama schools met 100% of their AYP objectives in 2006-2007

## STATE AYP STATUS REPORT

READING	Participation Goal = 95%		Met Participation Goal		Proficiency Index Goal = 0.88%		Met Proficiency Goal	
	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006
SCHOOL YEAR								
All Students	99	99	YES	YES	17.78	19.10	YES	YES
Special Education	98	98	YES	YES	-8.78	-6.20	YES	YES
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	99	100	YES	YES	20.53	21.91	YES	YES
Asian/Pacific Islander	98	99	YES	YES	22.25	24.10	YES	YES
Black	99	99	YES	YES	12.51	13.60	YES	YES
Hispanic	99	99	YES	YES	12.41	13.04	YES	YES
White	99	99	YES	YES	21.09	22.56	YES	YES
Limited-English Proficient	99	99	YES	YES	9.19	8.98	YES	YES
Free/Reduced Meals	99	99	YES	YES	13.62	14.76	YES	YES

**Alabama** met all goals in reading and mathematics in 2006-2007

## STATE AYP STATUS REPORT

MATHEMATICS	Participation Goal = 95%		Met Participation Goal		Proficiency Index Goal = 0.88%		Met Proficiency Goal	
	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006	2006-2007	2005-2006
SCHOOL YEAR								
All Students	99	99	YES	YES	25.51	29.68	YES	YES
Special Education	98	98	YES	YES	0.39	6.56	YES	YES
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	99	99	YES	YES	29.36	33.51	YES	YES
Asian/Pacific Islander	98	99	YES	YES	34.39	38.59	YES	YES
Black	99	98	YES	YES	18.89	23.09	YES	YES
Hispanic	99	99	YES	YES	22.12	25.77	YES	YES
White	99	99	YES	YES	29.45	33.64	YES	YES
Limited-English Proficient	99	98	YES	YES	20.35	23.28	YES	YES
Free/Reduced Meals	99	99	YES	YES	20.38	24.80	YES	YES

ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENTS, AND ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS 2007



# Number of Schools Identified to Offer School Choice Drops Significantly

**THE** release of the 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data brings good news in the area of school improvement. The report indicates a 70 percent decrease from last year in the number of Title I schools (high-poverty schools that receive federal funding based upon the number of students eligible for free and reduced meals) slated for school improvement. That means fewer schools in Alabama must offer school choice for the upcoming school year. In addition, 318 schools that were in School Improvement last year, made it out of School Improvement status this year. Of those schools, 201 are Title I and 117 are Non-Title I.

“All experts in school improvement initiatives agree the data tell the story,” said **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**. “These data say that the Alabama Reading Initiative; Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative; and ACCESS Distance Learning are working to improve Alabama’s schools. Parents, teachers, principals, and staff across Alabama should be proud of the student efforts,” said Morton.

Alabama evaluated 1,358 public schools, of which 856 are Title I schools. Statewide, 153 schools are identified

	2006	2007	Decrease
Number of schools identified	458	153	67%
Title I	294	89	70%
Non-Title I	164	64	61%

ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENTS, AND ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS 2007

**67%** decrease in the total number of Alabama schools in School Improvement

**70%** decrease from last year in the number of Title I schools slated for School Improvement

**61%** decrease from last year in the number of Non- Title I schools in School Improvement

for school improvement because they did not make AYP. Of those, 89 are Title I schools that must offer parents the School Choice option if available. In addition, 64 Non-Title I schools in School Improvement for the 2007-08 school year are not required to offer school choice. Only Title I schools are required to offer school choice.

In comparison, the data shows a 61 percent decrease from last year in the number of Non-Title I schools in School Improvement, and a 70 percent decrease from last year in the number of Title I schools in School Improvement. Overall, there is a 67 percent decrease in the total number of schools in School Improvement.

In the event that School Choice is not an option due to no available schools in the system not in School Improvement, parents can opt for Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for their children. These services, provided through federal funding, include free after-school tutoring. Non-Title I schools in School Improvement may offer the same provisions, but are not required to because of cost factors.

For a complete list of schools in School Improvement, [CLICK HERE](#). 🍏





# “Spring” into the beginning of a new school year

**W**ELCOME BACK! I don't know about you, but I am ready to get back into the groove of a new school year! By this time every year I'm running out of things to read, I've organized all there is to organize around the house, and, unfortunately, my jeans are getting a little snug. The end of summer break always feels like “winter” to me, with the start of a new school year feeling almost like “spring.” You know, waiting with anticipation for something to happen ... waiting for the flowers to bloom, for the hummingbirds to return, everything getting a fresh start ... a new beginning. Although I have



been extra busy this summer with my duties as Alabama's Teacher of the Year, I am enthusiastically looking forward to “spring” ... the new school year ... the opportunity for a new beginning. Are you starting to consider what a new beginning may mean to you? As you begin to consider this, I would like to take the opportunity to ask you to consider a few items I believe to be important.

My platform during my tenure as Alabama's Teacher of the Year is to increase awareness related to the need to consistently raise the educational standards, promote accountability in the classroom to ensure increased achievement for all students, and stress the importance of quality professional development to better enable our educators to accomplish these objectives.

I challenge you to look for opportunities to raise the expectations of your students as well as your peers and actively look for ways to attain academic excellence. Recent studies by ACT cited the “lack of rigor” in pre-college instruction as one of the main reasons that our students are not adequately prepared for the college experience. All students, regardless of their ability, need to be challenged to achieve at their highest level of learning.

It is our responsibility as educators to ensure that each student is being appropriately challenged.

I ask you to see yourselves as the King or Queen of your classroom. You completely control what happens within your classroom. You may not have a lot of control as to what happens at the school board, in the halls, or in the students' homes, but you do have complete control of EVERYTHING that happens within the four walls of your classroom. You are accountable for your preparation, your personal growth, your professionalism, and your attitude. How are you personally doing in these areas? Our “spring” has arrived, our opportunity for a new beginning. Can you look for ways to improve in one or more of these areas?

As educators, we are often viewed as a body of professionals. The reality is that we are individuals and we are as unique as the students we have in our classroom. As such, we cannot view professional development as a cookie-cutter experience. We each have unique needs in the area of professional development. Do your planned professional development activities specifically meet your personal or professional goals or are they just hours that you can tally up at the end of the year? Our “spring” has arrived. I challenge you to consider your personal professional development needs and seek opportunities to fulfill those individual needs. For those who have more than three years of classroom experience, this may be the pursuit of your National Board Certification. For those who may find the range of student learning styles in the classroom to be a challenge, you might consider looking into opportunities in the area of differentiated instruction. As professionals, it is our responsibility to pursue avenues of professional development that will help increase the learning of every student in our respective classrooms.

Our “spring” has arrived. A new school year ... our opportunity for a new beginning. I am excited about the opportunities this new school year offers. I hope you are too. I fully intend to do my part and raise the bar a little higher this year. I hope I can count on you to hold the other side of the bar with me.



## ***About the author:***

*Pamela Harman is the 2007-2008 Alabama Teacher of the Year and Secondary Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Spain Park High School in the Hoover City School System.*

# The future of children is in our hands

**AS** Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008, my message for teachers is to slow down and remember why we became teachers in the first place. After taking the time to sit and think about prior school years, I feel uplifted, rejuvenated, and ready to tackle my daily duties once again. Tears have come to my eyes many times thinking about boys and girls in my classroom and how they have changed throughout the year. I want us all to sit in a quiet place and think about our students' faces and remember the rush we get when a child understands a new concept or successfully completes a challenging task. I recall several children telling me at the beginning of a year they hated reading or disliked school, but by the end of the year they truly had a love for reading and an excitement for learning. I know every teacher has stories like this. We only need to take time to reflect on them.

There are so many new programs in our profession that we struggle daily to keep our heads above water. I say "we" because I am certainly one of those teachers. The new programs are amazing and necessary, but they seem to all come at once with training, reading, planning, collaboration, and follow-up instruction. In the past few years, programs that have greatly affected my classroom are *No Child Left Behind* requirements; Alabama

**Children are our future,  
and the future is in our hands  
because we are their teachers**

Reading Initiative (ARI); Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI); and school improvement. These initiatives are wonderful, yet time-consuming. When implementing new programs, teachers and administrators are focused on the details of the program. However, I propose teachers need to reflect on what makes them the great teachers they are. We should take a minute, write our thoughts down, and keep it in our desk drawers.

When we are feeling down, overworked, have a mound of paperwork on our desks, or have a million things to do before we go home. REMEMBER and BELIEVE we are SPECIAL. We are UNIQUE and we



are doing an INCREDIBLE job! Children are our future, and the future is in our hands because we are their teachers.

Being Elementary Teacher of the Year, I have had the privilege to encourage thousands of teachers to be recognized as the great professionals they are. As a teacher, if you are given the opportunity to share what you do in your class, take advantage and reveal your love for teaching.

Teaching is a truly rewarding career. Teachers love children and we work hard everyday to help them strive to be the most successful they can be in life.

Always remember, every thriving person has had incredible teachers to help direct his/her path on this journey we call life.



## ***About the author:***

*Christine M. Sealy is the 2007-2008 Alabama Alternate State Teacher of the Year and Elementary Teacher of the Year. She teaches at J. Larry Newton School in the Baldwin County School System.*



## Cullman Reaches \$2 Million for Area Schools

ON May 10, Cullman Electric Cooperative and the Cullman Power Board hosted a dinner celebrating **Operation Round Up** reaching \$2 million in grants to area schools. Vinemont Elementary School teacher **KENDRA RICHARDS** received a \$350 check during the event to push the program's donations over the \$2 million mark. Since Operation Round Up was created 14 years ago, close to 6,000 grants have been awarded to teachers in the two electric utilities service areas. Operation Round Up was launched in 1993 when Cullman Electric Cooperative asked its members to enroll by rounding up their monthly electric bill to the nearest whole dollar. The extra pennies from the thousands of participants are placed in an interest-bearing account at a local bank. In 1996, Cullman Power Board joined the program, adding approximately 6,000 more participants. Today, more than 70 percent of CEC members and CPB customers participate in the program. As the program's popularity grew, it moved past the \$1 million mark in 2002, and in the five years since surged past the \$2 million milestone. Today, the average annual donation per

member account is approximately \$6. Cullman Electric Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative serving 41,000 member accounts in Cullman,

Morgan, Lawrence and Winston counties. *State Board of Education Member: David F. Byers, Jr. – District 6*  
*Cullman County Schools Superintendent: Mr. L. Hank Allen · Cullman City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Janet Harris*



*Pictured receiving check is Kendra Richards, a teacher at Vinemont Elementary School. Seated from left, are: Mike Manning – Manager at Cullman Power Board; Wells Turner – Chairman, Cullman Power Board of Directors; Richards; Raymond Williams – Chairman, Operation Round Up Board of Directors; Neil Rainwater – Chair, Cullman Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees; Grady Smith – President and CEO, Cullman Electric Cooperative. Others pictured are current and former Operation Round Up Board Members. Standing first row from left are: Ladonna Brooks, Margie Burkart, Hubert Phillips, Grant Crider, Sherri Feezell, Cammie Baehne, Jimmy Barnes, Dean McMinn, Connie Briehe. Back row: Tommy Howard, Jerry Galin, Herman Reid, Jerry Schuman, John Riley, Fred Cespedes, Terry Adams, James Fields, and Paulette Wilcutt.*

## Historic Reunion for Crossroad School Alumni

**CROSSROAD** School in Marion, Alabama (Perry County), is holding a historic first reunion on August 31 through September 1 at the Ramada Inn in Selma, Alabama. **LUCILLE HOOKS**, one of the reunion organizers, said Crossroad School was one of the first, if not the very first, schools for African-Americans in Perry County. Crossroad was founded in 1896 and taught African-American students in the Marion area through the 1960s. Hooks, whose father was one of the school's founders, is a 1941 graduate of Crossroad, and said other graduates of the school have gone on to make great accomplishments, including her classmate Coretta Scott King, wife of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hooks said her father taught at the school until 1921, and Coretta

Scott King's father, Mr. Obadiah Scott, actually rebuilt a logging truck into the first bus to transfer students to and from school. Although the physical building no longer exists, Hooks said the spirit of Crossroad School continues in the hearts and minds of the students who attended. For information on the reunion contact Lucille Hooks at PO Box 231023, Montgomery, AL, 36106, or (334) 279-5936. *State Board of Education Member: Ella B. Bell – District 5*  
*Perry County Schools Superintendent: Mr. John H. Heard, III*



*Coretta Scott King, 1954*



## Trione Shows Vision Despite Loss of Sight

**ARTIST** RICKY TRIONE shared his incredible story of the loss of his sight and his new-found art style with Elsanor Elementary students recently. His inspirational and motivational stories encourage students of all ages to succeed by never giving up on their dreams. Mr. Trione traveled with assistance to schools in Baldwin County to share his message and teach

his style to students. Kindergarteners to seniors have enjoyed his experience, and schools are requesting him to return for more art and stories.

*State Board of Education Member:  
Randy McKinney – District 1  
Baldwin County Schools Superintendent:  
Dr. Faron Hollinger.*



*Dr. Pam Henson, Director of Instructional Support, and Vicky Nix Cook, Fine Arts and Library Media Supervisor, admire a painting by artist Ricky Trione and Elsanor Elementary students.*

## 2007 Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Awards Announced

**EACH** year, the Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Awards are given to four very deserving, outstanding Alabama technology leaders in four different categories. Nominees are judged based upon the following five criteria: “Innovation and Creativity,” “Impact on Teaching and Learning,” “Leadership,” “Teamwork,” and “Scholarship.”



*Pictured (l to r) are: SHAWN NUTTING, Trussville City Schools, Technology Coordinator Award winner; MRS. EDITH PICKENS, Challenger Middle School, School Leader Award winner; MS. BEVERLY SIMON, West Jasper Elementary School, Teacher Award winner; and DR. FRANK BUCK, Talladega City Schools, Central Office Instructional Leader Award winner.*

## HCT Big Winners in The Great Moonbuggy Race



Machining, Computer Electronics and Autobody) are the winner of “The Great Moonbuggy Race” sponsored by the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama. Under very strict, international guidelines, the students designed, fabricated, and tested the moonbuggy and then drove the buggy over “moon terrain” in competition with teams from 27 other states, Germany, and the Virgin Islands.

*State Board of Education Member:  
Dr. Mary Jane Caylor – District 8  
Huntsville City Schools Superintendent:  
Dr. Ann Roy Moore.*

**FOR** the second year in a row, the mechanical engineering programs located on the campus of the Huntsville Center for Technology (Computer Aided Drafting (CAD), Precision







## Get Ready for Statewide Parent Visitation Month in October

**POSTERS** from 12 Alabama families were selected in May for recognition in the 2007 Statewide Family Poster Contest on Parental Involvement, a contest designed to raise awareness of the key role parents and families play in the education of their children.

The statewide winner of the poster contest, selected by **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**, is the family of **TERON DUKES**, a fifth-grade student at Cleburne County Middle School.

The Dukes family poster illustrates this year's theme for Parent Visitation Month – *Parents: The Link to Success*. The winning poster will be displayed on billboards throughout Alabama inviting parents to visit their children's schools.

Eleven additional posters were selected to receive special recognition. They were displayed, along with the statewide winner, at the 2007 MEGA Conference this summer in Mobile. All 12 family posters will illustrate the 2007-2008 Alabama Parent and Family Involvement Calendar, which goes online in September.

For more information on the poster contest, calendar, or parental involvement in education, e-mail [JUDY BOHANNON](mailto:JUDY.BOHANNON) or call 334-242-8199.

Many FREE bilingual resources for parental involvement are available from: [National PTA](http://NationalPTA.org), [USA.gov](http://USA.gov), and [U.S. Department of Education](http://U.S.DepartmentofEducation.gov).

### Congratulations to the 12 winning families, their schools, and school systems:

- BOB BISMONTE**, Greensboro West High School (Hale County) - **November 2007**
- JESSIE CARAWAY**, Huxford Elementary School (Escambia County) - **June 2008**
- TERON DUKES**, Cleburne County Middle School (Cleburne County) - **October 2007**
- ASHLYN IRVIN**, Haleyville Elementary School (Haleyville City) - **May 2008**
- MITCH NOLTE**, Saks Middle School (Calhoun County) - **January 2008**
- SERA OGLESBY**, Prattville High School (Autauga County) - **December 2007**
- TERRENCE PIERSON**, Bullock County High School (Bullock County) - **September 2008**
- MYAH PIPER**, Fairfax Elementary School (Chambers County) - **August 2008**
- TYLER REYNOLDS**, Section School (Jackson County) - **April 2008**
- WARREN SMITH**, Jackson-Olin High School (Birmingham City) - **February 2008**
- KATHERINE WESTER**, Oneonta Elementary School (Oneonta City) - **March 2008**
- STEPHANIE WITT**, Cleveland Elementary School (Blount County) - **July 2008**



## June:

- ✎ Resolution Commending Anna F. Booth Elementary School, Mobile County School System, Eighth Annual National School Change Award
- ✎ Resolution Adopting Beverage Standards for Vending Sales in Alabama Public Schools
- ✎ Resolution Commending the Huntsville Center for Technology as First Place Winner at the 14th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race, U. S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama
- ✎ Resolution in Honor of Sasha Willingham, Russellville High School, Russellville City School System, 2007-2008 Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) National Student of the Year
- ✎ Resolution in Honor of Sosthenes Sealy, Robert E. Lee High School, Montgomery County School System
- ✎ Authorize Review of Teacher Education Program, Auburn University Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama
- ✎ Approval of Teacher Education Programs, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama

## July:

- ✎ Resolution Commending Fairhope Middle School, Baldwin County School System, Career Technologies Education Program, as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007
- ✎ Resolution Commending Mary G. Montgomery High School, Mobile County School System, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Program, as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007
- ✎ Resolution Commending George Washington Carver High School, Birmingham City School System, Technical Education Program, as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007

- ✎ Resolution Commending Robert E. Lee High School, Montgomery County School System, JOBS for Alabama's Graduates (JAG), as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007
- ✎ Resolution in Recognition of Charles Henderson Middle School, Troy City School System, National Archery in the School Program (NASP), State Tournament, First-Place Winner
- ✎ Resolution Commending Pell City High School, Pell City School System, Agriscience Education Program, as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007
- ✎ Resolution Commending Limestone County Career Technical Center, Limestone County School System, Health Science Program as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007
- ✎ Resolution Commending Athens High School, Athens City School System, Business/Marketing Education Program as the Outstanding Program of the Year for 2006-2007
- ✎ Resolution in Honor of Chasidy Miroff, Brookwood Middle School, Tuscaloosa County School System, Participant in 2007 Toyota International Teacher Program Study Tour to the Galapagos Islands
- ✎ Election of Vice President and President Pro Tem for the Alabama State Board of Education

## August:

- ✎ Resolution Commending Dr. Anita Buckley Commander, President of the National Association of State Textbook Administrators (NASTA)
- ✎ Approval of Teacher Education Programs, The University of West Alabama
- ✎ Approval of Teacher Education Programs, Auburn University - Montgomery

For a complete list of agenda items, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Awards, Opportunities, and Professional Development

**Toyota International Teacher Program to Costa Rica** - A study tour from Feb. 24 through March 7, 2008, is open to all full-time classroom teachers in Grades 7-12 in all 50 states. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. **DEADLINE: September 7**

**Win a Classroom Makeover.** To be eligible, K-12 teachers must be legal residents of the 50 states and employed by a state-accredited educational institution. One grand-prize winner receives a \$25,000 classroom makeover. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. **DEADLINE: October 15**

**Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program** offers exchange opportunities for full-time teachers and administrators. For teachers, this opportunity involves a year, semester, or six-week direct exchange of teaching positions with a counterpart in another country teaching the same subject(s) at the same level. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. **DEADLINE: October 15**

Become a **NASA Explorer School** during the 2008-2009 school year. Teams composed of full-time teachers and a school administrator develop and implement a three-year action plan to address local challenges in science, technology, and mathematics education for Grades 4-9. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. **DEADLINE: January 31, 2008**

**Audubon Adventures** is an environmental education program for children in Grades 3-5 and 6-8. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Visit **Historic Fort Mitchell National Landmark**. Located on Alabama Hwy. 165 South, 10 miles south of Phenix City and Columbus, Georgia, Fort Mitchell features a reconstructed frontier fort originally built in 1813 during the Creek Indian wars. The Visitor Center shows a movie of re-enactments of history that occurred in the 1800-1836 era. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

# ALFA *Principal of the Month*

## June 2007



When **CHILDERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL KEVIN MADDOX** examines his philosophy of leadership, it takes him back to a conversation with his father, a Southern Baptist minister, just before leaving for college.

“I asked my dad why he chose to live his life serving others,” says Maddox. “He replied by telling me that in his ministerial experiences there seemed to be

two important questions a dying man asks himself: (1.) What have I done for others? (2.) What kind of relationships was I able to create during my life, or more succinctly, how will I be remembered by others?”

It was that conversation Maddox says that helped shape his own life and leadership style, a style that earned him recognition as Alfa’s Principal of the Month for June. As this month’s winner, he will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance, and his school will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

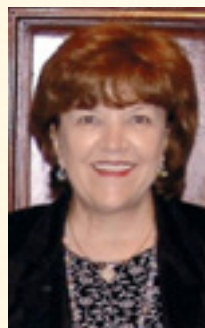
Maddox, who earned his master’s degree and educational specialist degree from the University of Montevallo and is working on his doctorate in education from Samford University, was nominated by Samford in 2005 for “Principal of the Year” of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

“The success Mr. Maddox has achieved as principal of Childersburg High School is directly related to the positive learning environment that permeates the school,” said Talladega County School Deputy Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Lacey. “Students work diligently to be respectful, resourceful and responsible citizens. ... he leads by example.”

Vicky Ozment, principal of Winterboro High School, said Maddox is “the kind of leader for whom everyone wants to work.

“His open-door policy, along with his open-mindedness, gives his staff security in addressing needs and concerns,” she said. “Kevin exercises the perfect balance between firm discipline and gentle understanding. His hands-on approach is welcomed by his staff because of his sincere concern for staff assistance and development. He seeks opportunities to praise; he conveys sincere appreciation; and he motivates by example.”

## July 2007



When people talk about **DR. SHIRLEY COKER**, there’s one thing clear about the Harlan Elementary School principal – she’s a firm believer in teamwork. That’s why the faculty at the Florence City School campus is divided into teams according to grade levels. And that’s why a new team leader is assigned each school year, allowing all to be in an

assigned leadership position to set agendas for meetings and direct the team in its goals.

“There is no way that a single person, or a few chosen people, can do all that needs to be accomplished to promote a superior school,” says Coker, who has been chosen Alfa’s “Principal of the Month” for July. As this month’s winner, she will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance, and her school will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

Coker, who earned her doctorate degree in 2002 from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, came to Harlan in 1997 after a 14-year teaching career and three years as an assistant principal at Florence’s Hibbett Middle School.

Almost immediately, she saw the need for teamwork in the school where 73 percent of the students are of minority race and 83 percent are eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches.

“Many natural leaders have emerged with self-confidence after being assigned the leadership position for a school year,” said Coker. “From the custodians to the cafeteria workers, from the assistants to the teachers, all personnel and parents at Harlan understand that we must work together to enhance the success of academic achievement for each and every student.”

In the second year of her principalship at Harlan, Coker initiated a school-wide reading program, which her staff — along with parents, students and community members — designed to meet the needs of all students.

“While the demographics of our school present special challenges, Dr. Coker consistently sets high standards for herself, our faculty and staff and the students,” said Barbara Allgood, Harlan’s Alabama Reading Initiative coach.

During 2007, Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation will honor one outstanding teacher from each of Alabama’s eight state school board districts, as well as two principals and two private school teachers.



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Copies available in Braille or other forms upon request.

**S E P T E M B E R**

<i>PTA Membership Month</i>	
<i>Food Education Safety Month · Library Card Sign-Up Month</i>	
September 3 – Labor Day	
September 6 – Read a Book Day	
September 13 – State Board Meeting	
September 17 – U.S. Constitution Day	
September 27 – State Board Work Session	

**O C T O B E R**

<i>Statewide Parent Involvement Month · School Bus Safety Month</i>	
<i>Child Mental Health Month · Computer Learning Month</i>	
October 9 – Columbus Day	
October 11 – State Board Meeting	
October 25 – State Board Work Session	
October 28 – Statue of Liberty Birthday	
October 31 – Halloween	