

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021



*nccat*



NCCAT-2035202



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JUNE 30, 2021

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The 2020-2021 year was both rewarding and challenging. Participants and staff at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) successfully adapted our professional development offerings in response to the global pandemic. The essential mission and nature of our work remained constant: to provide professional learning that increases teacher effectiveness in classrooms around North Carolina.

Once again, NCCAT served educators in every school district and many charter schools in North Carolina. We supported educators through virtual offerings, online courses, and following safety protocols in residential settings. In some of the most challenging times, teachers previously unacquainted with NCCAT were provided support and opportunities to grow in knowledge, skills, compassion, and professionalism.

A long-time supporter of teacher excellence, NCCAT continued to recognize the best beginning teachers in the state with the NCCAT 2021 Prudential NC Beginning Teacher of the Year ceremony held April 15, 2021, at the Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center on the campus of Western Carolina University.

Emilee Higdon, a high school English teacher at Union Academy in Macon County, was named the winner. The award was presented for the second time, with 27 finalists from across the state in attendance. A week of professional development was part of the week-long celebration of beginning teachers.

*"I cannot thank you all enough for the opportunity to spend the week at NCCAT. The connections and contacts that I have made will last a lifetime, and I have huge aspirations for the collaboration and change I can make with the team I have been given."*

*- Charlcy Carpenter -  
NCCAT 2021 Finalist North Carolina  
Beginning Teacher*

Along with honoring the teaching profession, NCCAT offers a wide variety of professional development with literacy as a pillar of those offerings.

NCCAT is extraordinarily grateful to work with dedicated and passionate educators across North Carolina. Teachers and educators in North Carolina always impress us with their

dedication to students. That dedication was especially true this year as teachers worked tirelessly to overcome long odds to continue providing a sound education to our students. We look forward to continuing to inspire and grow our valued educators, impacting students in the state this year and in the years to come.

  
Dr. Cory S. Causby  
*Chairman, Board of Trustees*

  
Richard A. Schwartz  
*President, Development Foundation*

  
M. Brock Womble  
*Executive Director*

*\*Pictured on front: (right to left) – NCCAT 2021 Beginning Teacher of the Year Emilee Higdon, a high school English teacher at Union Academy in Macon County Schools. Runner-up Robin Mehler (left) who teaches at Lucy S. Herring Elementary School in Asheville.*

## LITERACY Learning Leaders

Selected Literacy Learning Leaders attended NCCAT's Cullowhee campus to participate in a rigorous professional development experience on adult learning theory and best practices and NCCAT's Literacy Badge, a six session badging process based on foundational

reading skills and the science of reading. At the completion of the 11 days, NCCAT Literacy Learning Leaders were certified to deliver NCCAT Literacy Badge professional development in the eight educational regions.



### Gin Hodge

In striving to meet North Carolina's current and future needs in early grades literacy, NCCAT hired Early Grades Literacy Specialist Gin Hodge to support teachers in incorporating early grades literacy learning into their instruction. Hodge has been honored as Buncombe County

Teacher of the Year in 2002. Her experience includes teaching kindergarten (Jackson County), first grade (Rutherford County), and third and fourth grades (Buncombe County). Hodge has been an instructional coach for the last ten years with Buncombe County. She received her undergraduate and graduate degree from Western Carolina University.

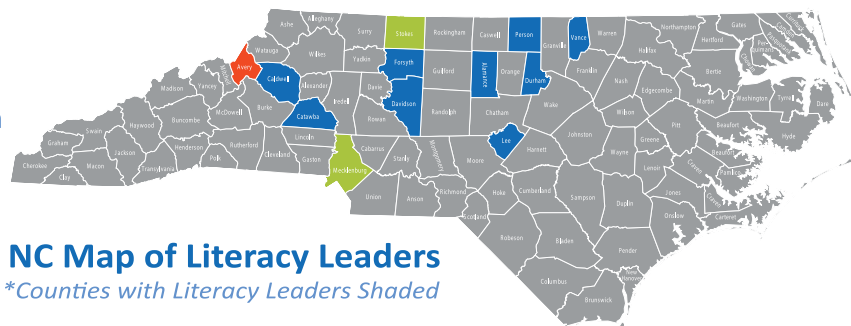


The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) offers a six-session series focused on research-to-practice exploration of the foundational skills in early literacy. To fully comprehend increasingly complex text, students must have

a strong foundation in the skills of early literacy. These skills-framed by the science of reading and based on the "big ideas" of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension-work together to create proficient readers who are also life-long learners.

The NCCAT Literacy Badge journey focuses on helping educators bring these evidence-based practices to life in their classrooms!

Teachers can attend all six sessions and complete related assignments based on application of new learning to earn an NCCAT Literacy Badge or attend individual sessions to deepen understanding of the building blocks of beginning reading.







Alexandra Allen, *Wilkes County Schools*

David Babb, *Clover Garden Schools*

Angela Baker, *Richmond County Schools*

Laura Beirne Mulligan, *Davie County Schools*

Sarah Bowman, *Johnston County Public Schools*

Charlcy Carpenter, *Cleveland County Schools*

Deanna Ciampa, *Wilson County Schools*

LaKeia Colquitt, *Guilford County Schools*

Imani Cooper, *Weldon City Schools*

Megan Frager, *Envision Science Academy*

Dessie Greene, *Brunswick County Schools*

Schala Harper, *New Hanover Schools*

Emilee Higdon, *Macon County Schools*

Shanice Hill, *Henderson County Public Schools*

Kate Horne, *Thomasville City Schools*

Rebekah Lee, *STARS Charter School*

Dalton Lewis, *Ashe County Schools*

Robin Mehler, *Asheville City Schools*

Alessandra Nysether-Santos, *Pitt County Schools*

Makenna Pate, *Rowan-Salisbury Schools*

Megan Piland, *Northampton County Schools*

Tanesha Revels-Epps, *Scotland County*

Kimberly Joy Robinson, *Union County Public Schools*

Meredith Sumrell, *Harnett County Schools*

Kelly Thigpen, *Newton-Conover City Schools*

Michael Villanueva, *Wake County Public Schools*

Sequita White, *Clinton City Schools*

# Sponsors

**SIGNATURE SPONSOR:** Prudential Retirement

**GOLD SPONSORS:** Dr. Jim and Mrs. June Causby

**SILVER SPONSORS:** Builder Services of NC, Diamonds Direct, Pierce Group Benefits, and Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC

**PATRON SPONSOR:** Campbell Shatley, PLLC



## BEGINNING TEACHER OF THE YEAR PRIZES INCLUDE:



**\$5,000**  
CASH PRIZE



**INSTRUCTIONAL  
SUPPLY FUNDS**



**RUNNER-UP  
\$2,000**  
CASH PRIZE



**DIAMOND  
BRACELET  
DIAMOND DIRECT**



**ALL FINALISTS RECIEVE  
TRAVEL EXPENSES**



**PARTICIPATION  
IN A GoGlobal  
NC TRIP**

2021 Prudential  
Beginning Teacher of

# *nccat* BEGINNING TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year process was developed to honor beginning teachers who are the future of education in North Carolina.

**E**milee Higdon, a High School English teacher at Union Academy of Macon County Schools, was named the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) 2021 Prudential NC Beginning Teacher of the Year in a special ceremony at the Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center on the campus of Western Carolina University Thursday, April 15, 2021.

The award was presented for the second time with finalists from across the state in attendance.

Higdon was described as a beacon of positivity. Her principal noted: her unrelenting courage to embrace opportunities to help her students grow makes her an ideal example of a leader. A student said her style of communication makes the learning process feel more collaborative. The classroom works together as a group and she hears what each of student has to say.



*Emilee Higdon*

**Hometown:** Franklin, NC

**Role:** High School English teacher at Union Academy of Macon County Schools

**Education:** University of North Carolina Wilmington

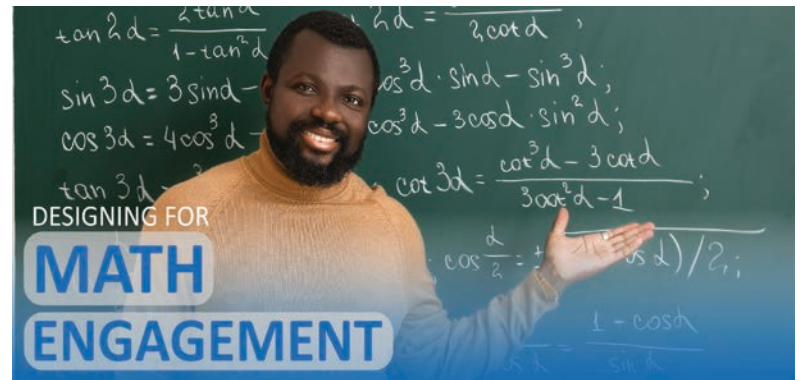
Information about the program is online at [www.nccat.org/btoy](http://www.nccat.org/btoy)

*I teach at an alternative school, and we aren't used to getting praise. I've been able to bring my students into this celebration, letting them know that I couldn't have received this award without them. It is an opportunity to advocate for students who get overlooked, and to be a voice for teachers and students. I'm honored, humbled, and excited to see what happens this year."*





**NCCAT residential professional development** provides teachers with content-based instruction, modeling of best practices, and coaching to support their application of new learning. The goal is consistently preparing teachers for change in practice upon return to the classroom.



- Routines for Reasoning in the Math Classroom
- Making Number Sense Happen
- Teaching Fractions for Understanding
- Facilitating the Math Workshop Model



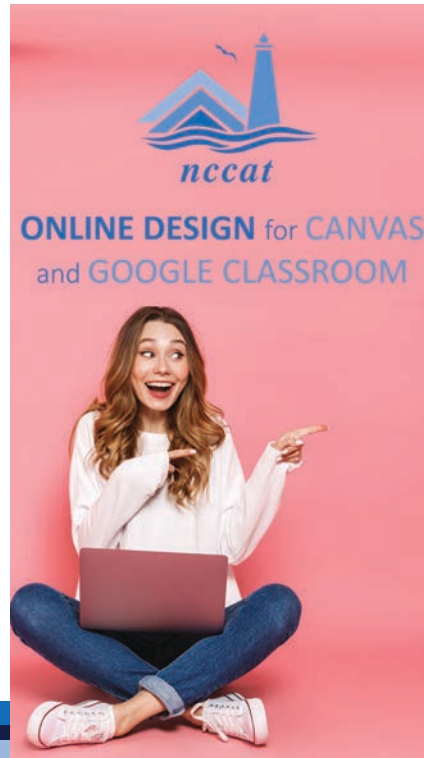
- A Deeper Dive into the Science of Reading
- Foundational Skills: Know Better, Do Better
- The Write to Read
- Literacy Strategies for Specialist Teachers
- Getting Boys Hooked on Books

“This is such an amazing place. Having the opportunity to collaborate with teachers across the state is such a blessing. During a school year spent during a pandemic, connecting with other teachers and collaborating with them allowed me to reconnect with all the reasons I went into teaching. I can't wait to implement some of the valuable strategies I was exposed to this week.”

*nccat* **RESIDENTIAL**



- MTSS Secondary Best Practices
- The Physically Active Academic Classroom
- Family and Consumer Sciences: Counseling and Mental Health
- Teacher Leadership: Teacher of the Year



**Instructional Coaching:**

*"[We] were able to learn so many things that we can return to our schools with. I look forward to implementing them and watching our student achievement increase."*



- A Blended Learning Experience
- Better Together: Merging the Best Practices of Digital Learning with Our In Person Classrooms
- Expanding Your Technology Toolbox
- Canvas Connection



- Designing Your Own STEM Curriculum
- Integrate STEAM into the Elementary Classroom
- Makerspace + STEM + PBL
- Citizen Science: Interactive STEM for Active Engagement

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## NCCAT Online



- Math
- Literacy
- Literacy Badge
- Digital
- Student Engagement
- Social Emotional Learning
- Blended Learning

*nccat*  
Statewide  
**IMPACT**



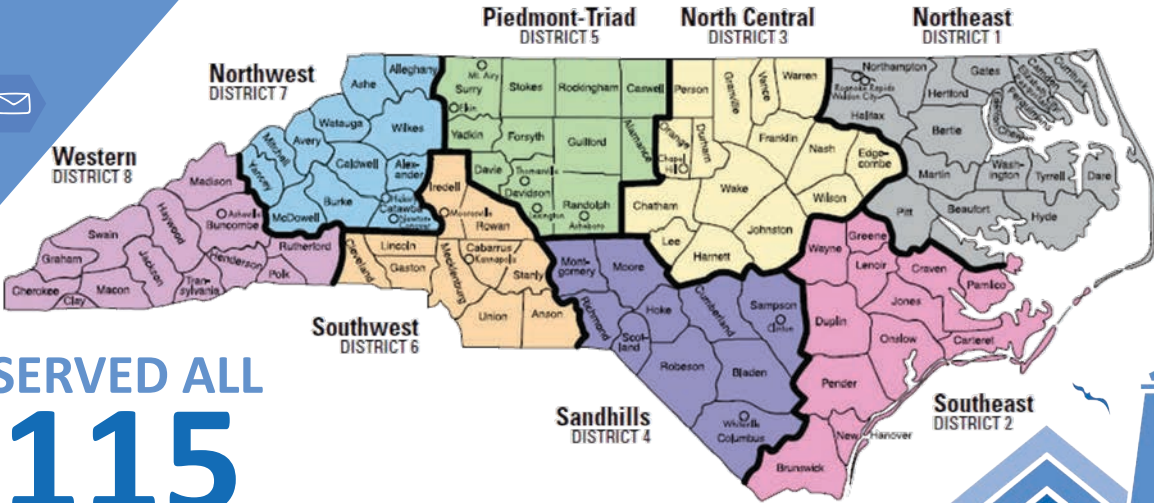
- Curriculum Leaders Conference
- Brief Introduction to the Science of Reading
- Math Collaborative
- NCCAT Book Talks
- Number Talks
- Reading and Decoding
- Vocabulary Strategies
- Poverty and Learning
- Building Cultures of Care
- Effective Feedback
- Collaborative Protocols
- Google Tools
- Canvas
- Effective Online Design
- Routines for Reasoning



“ MIKE GRAHAM ———

*“We had a plethora of opportunities to interact and listen to various instructors that had experience while here at NCCAT. Everyone was very knowledgeable and helpful. It was a great week. I plan to use this with my students in the future.”*

*Guilford County Teacher*



SERVED ALL  
**115**  
 SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
 IN 2020-2021





nccat

## RESPONDS to COVID - 19

NCCAT staff continued to meet the challenges for COVID-19 in 2020-2021. With unfaltering dedication to meet the continued professional development needs of North Carolina teachers, NCCAT held programs safely and expanded online and virtual instruction.

Residential instruction remains our most requested form of instruction; however, we are encouraged that when difficult times require alternative methods of instruction, NCCAT can continue to provide the professional development teachers need.



SOCIAL  
DISTANCE



TEMPERATURE  
CHECK



SANITIZE  
HANDS

# Thank You TEACHERS

“

*"I have never been more proud to be associated with education and educators than during these past two years. The amount of dedication, innovation, and determination has only been superseded by the depth of caring and concern for students and colleagues. Teachers have always been my heroes; now, you are all seen as the SUPERheroes you truly are. Thank you for making the critical difference in the lives of so many."*

TAMARA HOUCARD  
NCCAT Senior Content Specialist

”

*Thank you, North Carolina teachers! You have jumped so many hurdles as you deliver quality instruction to our precious North Carolina students. Prior to the Pandemic, you already had to face many challenges from students' basic needs to curriculum issues. Now on top of the threat of you and your students getting Covid -19, you have had to learn new digital technologies and adopt new methods of reaching all your learners. Who ever thought we would be modeling phonemic awareness while wearing a mask? You have my admiration and appreciation for your willingness to expand your professional expertise and for being there for our students.*

GIN HODGE  
NCCAT Senior Early Grades Literacy Specialist





*To all of our courageous North Carolina teachers, I am so proud of you! Not only have you had to think outside the box, problem-solve, and adapt to new technology on the fly, you had to do it during a pandemic! I saw you teaching from home, learning the art of video conferencing, and putting together learning kits for pickup. I know you were teaching around the clock and taking care of not only your students' needs but your families' needs as well. I saw you on social media sharing resources, advice, and tips! You are heroes! You are leaders! You are TEACHERS! Your hard work, perseverance, and sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. You are an incredible group of people! You have done a remarkable job these last 19 months! Thank you for always putting your students first. They (and we) will never forget what you have done for them.*

ELIZABETH JOYCE

*NCCAT Senior Digital Learning Specialist*



*"The NCCAT staff thank teachers for all you did and are doing to impact students across North Carolina. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you. Thank you for all you do!"*

*nccat*  
”

“ DR. BONNIE BOLADG —

*"NC Colleagues, Thank you for your continued resilience and endless compassion for our NC students. Your heartfelt dedication to our NC students is unmatched. We are thinking of you every day, and look forward to continuing to honor all that you do at NCCAT."*

*NCCAT Senior Mathematics Specialist*



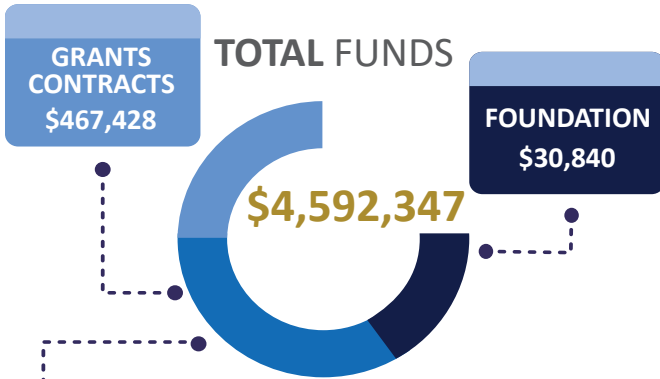
— MANDY TAYLOR

*"Teachers are the heart of education. Thank you for your heart. Thank you for the care and concern you give students every day, even when your own tank may be low. Thank you for continuing to see students' needs and striving to meet them in every way. The heart of a teacher holds so much. Thank you for giving that to all those in your care."*

*NCCAT Senior Content Specialist* ”



# FUNDING for 2020 - 2021



## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

### SEMINARS & PROGRAMS

Planning, registration, lodging services, visiting presenters, staff services, supplies and materials, and teacher services

59%



5%

### ADMINISTRATION

Management, planning, reporting, budget, policy analysis, and personnel

1%



### DEVELOPMENT

Administrative costs and expenses of the Development Foundation of NCCAT, Inc.

35%



### DIRECT SUPPORT SERVICES

Dining services, building & grounds maintenance, repairs, minor improvements, cleaning, utilities & telephone equipment, & customer services

# STATE FUNDING

Other services including maintenance contracts & services, utilities, telephone, building & equipment repairs, travel, printing and contracted food services

## CURRENT SERVICES

\$617,072



Insurance, rental agreements, professional publications and memberships

## FIXED CHARGES

\$78,080



Furnishings, computers, network & infrastructure upgrades and office equipment

## EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

\$168,579



Wages, salaries, & benefits for 44.25 full-time and part-time employees

## PERSONAL

\$2,910,955



Program materials, books, videos, food products, office supplies, cleaning materials & maintenance materials for building and grounds

## SUPPLIES

\$240,303



Visiting presenters serve as guest faculty

## VISITING PRESENTERS

\$79,090





# DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING, INC.

The Development Foundation Of NCCAT, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) that was established to help the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching more effectively leverage state resources. Through the support of friends, private foundations, and corporate partners, NCCAT is able to provide highly effective professional development for North Carolina's public and charter school teachers.

The following contributions reflect their commitment to the vital role NCCAT plays in strengthening public education in North Carolina.

*The Foundation offers sincere appreciation for this support during the 2020-2021 fiscal year*

The Development Foundation of NCCAT, Inc. is extremely grateful for the generous support of our grant partners, sponsors, and donors. Their financial commitment to NCCAT's instructional programming during the 2020-2021 fiscal year has provided much-needed support so that NCCAT can continue to inspire great teaching.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 30, 2021

Ms. Jennifer Bell

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Dr. Cory Causby

Dr. James F. Causby

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Mr. Guy P. Smith

Mr. Rick Stout

Ms. Linda Suggs

Mr. N. Edward Tucker, Jr.

The Honorable Willis P. Whichard

Dr. M. Brock Womble

## FOUNDATION FUNDS 2020 - 2021

### INCOME



- HONORED EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIPS & HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ENDOWMENTS \$26,767
- ANNUAL FUND \$46,692
- INVESTMENT INCOME \$37,447

**SUBTOTAL \$110,906**

### PROGRAM GRANTS



- BELIEVE IN READING FOUNDATION
- BELK FOUNDATION
- CHEROKEE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION
- CLAIMS CONFERENCE
- DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION
- GOODNIGHT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**SUBTOTAL \$142,041**

### PROGRAM CONTRACTS



- KENAN FELLOWS
- MITCHELL COUNTY SCHOOLS
- NCDPI - LITERACY
- NCDPI - RETHINK LEARNING
- PIEDMONT TRIANGLE EXECUTIVE CONSORTIUM
- SCHOOL BASED
- CONFERENCE & MEETINGS VARIOUS

**SUBTOTAL \$325,387**

**GRAND TOTAL \$578,334**



# SCHOLARSHIPS

## HONORED EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

pays tribute to outstanding individuals and educators by providing scholarship funds in their names. NCCAT administers each scholarship that reaches the endowment goal of \$25,000. Each fully endowed scholarship is awarded annually to a North Carolina teacher.

- *Boldface indicates funds have reached the \$25,000 level as of June 30, 2021.*

- *An asterisk (\*) indicates an additional Honored Educator Scholarship has been initiated.*

### **Mary Jo Allen, Teacher of the Year (Edgecombe)**

Mary Jo Allen (*Hertford*)

William M. and Carol H. Bass (*Statewide*)

**The Belk Foundation (Statewide)**

**Robert E. & Hattie H. Bridges (Wake)**

**Robert E. Bridges (Cary Academy)**

**George R. Brinson (Pamlico)**

**Marjorie T. & John S. Britt (Statewide)**

**Brunswick County Schools (Brunswick)**

Brian Bryson (*Jackson*)

**William Byrum, Teacher of the Year (Perquimans)**

**Jerry Lea & Elizabeth Long Cole in honor of William Edward Niven (Caswell)**

*Anne Marie Collins (Alamance)*

**Dare County Schools, Teacher of the Year (Dare)**

**Boyce T. Deitz (Swain)**

**Devonwood Foundation (Durham Academy)**

Mary Jane Coward Dillard (*Jackson*)

**Duplin County Schools, Teacher of the Year (Duplin)**

Jerome D. Franson (*Statewide*)

**Luz M. Frye**

**(Foreign Language Teachers)**

Karen Gerringner

*(Principal Fellows Interns)*

**Guilford County Schools, Teacher of the Year (Guilford)**

**R. Phillip Haire (Statewide)**

Katherine Herring (*Pender*)

**John F. & Emy Swindell Hinnant (Wilson)**

**Elsie Brame Hunt & Noma Henderson Leonard (Wilson)**

**Phillip J. Kirk Jr. (Rowan-Salisbury Schools)**

Phillip J. & Margaret Simmons Kirk (*Statewide*)

Kenneth I. Lanier, Jr. (*Pender*)

**Mary D. McDuffie (Statewide)**

**Susan S. McHugh (Polk)**

**Mabel Roberson McIntyre (Nash & Wilson)**

**William J. Miller (Polk)**

Scott Penland (*Clay*)

**Lynda Petty (Randolph)**

**A. Craig Phillips (I, II, III)\* (Statewide)**

Jean P. Powell

**(Clinton City & Sampson County)**

A. M. Primm (*Alamance*)

**Eugene & Jean Rogers (Martin)**

**Richard A. Schwartz (Statewide)**

**Scotland County Schools, Teacher of the Year (Scotland)**

**Gracia & John Slater Family (Jackson & Henderson)**

**Simon F. Terrell (I, II)**

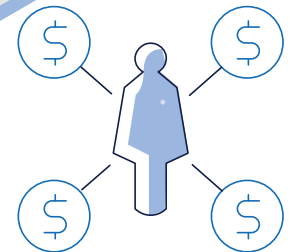
**(Durham, Orange, Wake, Warren)**

**Richard L. Thompson (Statewide)**

**Beulah Padgett Whichard (Clay & Durham)**

Willis P. Whichard (*Statewide*)

**C. Fletcher Womble Jr. (Cumberland)**



## What Does Scholarship Funds Provide?

- Instruction and Program Materials
- Substitute Teacher Reimbursement
- Teacher Travel—excluding hotel stay expenses when traveling to and from campus
- Lodging and meals while on the NCCAT campus
- \$250 for use in the classroom
- Each fully endowed scholarship is awarded annually to a full-time NC teacher
- Based on criteria determined by scholarship benefactor

How Can I Donate or Start A New Scholarship Fund?

**DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING, INC.

[foundation@nccat.org](mailto:foundation@nccat.org) | [www.nccat.org](http://www.nccat.org)



- NCCAT is in the initial phase of “**Developing Learning Leaders.**” **Literacy Learning Leaders** are now prepared to deliver **NCCAT Literacy Badge** professional development in the **eight educational regions.**

- NCCAT **North Carolina Beginning Teacher of the Year** award continues with move to Bardo Center on **Western Carolina University Campus.**



# nccat UPCOMING

- NCCAT is expanding its **early grades literacy professional development model.** All aspects of NCCAT literacy model are based on current science of reading.

- NCCAT will host the **1st Annual Literacy Leaders Conference** in Cullowhee. Leaders from across the state will have the opportunity to **learn, collaborate, and network** with their peers.

- A new **Teacher of the Year** ceremony to highlight **Career and Technical Education** teachers will begin.





*nccat*

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[nccat.org](http://nccat.org)

