



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 7, 2018

CONTACT: Communication
334-694-4686
comm@alsde.edu

Governor Kay Ivey
President

**STATE COMMENDS 2018 ASHPERD AWARDEE –
ALABAMA EDUCATOR NANCY RAY**

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – Alabama educator Nancy Ray is this year's recipient of the *Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (ASHPERD) Honor Award*. This is one of the highest accolades given annually. It is presented to top professionals in the fields of health, physical education, recreation, sport, and exercise science.

Betty Peters
District II

Alabama State Department of Education Administrator Nancy Ray was formally honored at the ASHPERD Awards and President's Reception, earlier this week.

Stephanie Bell
District III

"I am humbled and overwhelmed to receive this award," said Ray. "It is the greatest honor of my educational career, to be recognized by this organization and my peers. Alabama's physical education teachers work tirelessly every day to provide quality programs for our students. They are truly the ones who deserve recognition."

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

She cites the lifetime of encouragement that she has received from mentors, as the key reasons for this achievement. "I was blessed to have wonderful mentors, such as Dr. Jennifer Brown, Dr. Charlie Gibbons, and Dr. Joyce Moore during my undergraduate years at Auburn University Montgomery (AUM), and later Dr. Darrell Pearson at Troy University. I was also fortunate to do my student-teaching with Ronnie LeMay. *Each of these top professionals had a huge impact on me. They demanded excellence.*"

Ella B. Bell
District V

Originally, this 2018 ASHPERD awardee decided to major in recreation studies. However, the university that she attended did not offer this program as a full major, and she decided to pursue health and physical education instead. Ray was hooked after taking her very first lab in the program. "I knew teaching was my calling and I never looked back – *I wanted to teach!*"

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI
Vice President

The mission of ASHPERD is to promote healthy lifestyles for Alabamians through dynamic programs in health, sports, and exercise science. This organization also provides opportunities for professional development, and communicates the benefits of physical education statewide.

Jeff Newman
District VII
President Pro Tem

Learn more about the 2018 ASHPERD Awards at <https://www.asahperd.org/awards>.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

###

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer