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2016 ACCESS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED
Honorees to be recognized at the Alabama Educational Technology Conference

Montgomery, Al. – The Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS) Virtual Learning Program is recognizing five individuals who are broadening awareness of a program that aims to provide an infrastructure that delivers equitable, quality learning opportunities for all high school students.

The recipients of the ACCESS Awards will be recognized and presented with their awards during the 2016 Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC) held at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) from June 7-9, 2016.

This year’s awardees are:

- **ACCESS Administrator of the Year**
  Tom Cochran, Principal, Reeltown High School, Tallapoosa County Schools

- **ACCESS Teacher of the Year**
  Larry Thigpen, Teacher/Coach, Cleveland High School, Blount County Schools

- **ACCESS Counselor of the Year**
  Barbara Wilkerson, Counselor, Foley High School, Baldwin County Schools

- **ACCESS Facilitator of the Year**
  Peggy Garner, Talladega County Central High School, Talladega County Schools

- **ACCESS Student of the Year**
  Erical Johnson, LaFayette High School, Chambers County Schools

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ACCESS was launched on November 1, 2004. The distance education initiative offers opportunities for students at their local community schools that would have otherwise not been possible by providing a blended learning model that provides resources, connectivity, and professional development.

Among the criteria for the ACCESS Awards are work and diligence that had a positive impact on teaching and learning using the ACCESS program; improvement of the quality of education in Alabama’s schools; work that reflects the mission and goals of the nominee’s school; and utilization of technology to advance education in Alabama.

The winners were selected by a panel from nominations sent in by the three ACCESS Support Centers at The University of Alabama, Troy University, and Madison City Board of Education. The awards will be presented at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, in East Hall, Ballrooms A & B, of the BJCC.

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