



Alabama Education News

THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Congratulations to Alabama's New Teacher of the Year and Alternate State Teacher of the Year!



Alabama continues to be represented by some of the most outstanding educators in the nation, and 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year Ann Marie Corgill and Alternate State Teacher of the Year Christopher Payne are upholding that proud tradition. Both personify the time, attention, and patience that great educators show every day in the classroom.

Ann Marie, a fourth-grade teacher at Cherokee Bend Elementary School in the Mountain Brook City School System, originally aspired to be an architect. Though she is not designing and building homes, this National Board Certified Teacher is still an architect of sorts: she works to create and construct firm foundations for students to stand on as they learn, grow, and become successful contributing members of society.

Ann Marie has said, "Day after day, year after year, I realize that my job is not simply about teaching, but reaching students by learning about them, honoring their passions, helping them overcome obstacles, and building foundations so they can achieve their goals, both as learners and people."

Such commitment further exemplifies Ann Marie's professionalism and dedication to Alabama's most valued asset – its children. She is a role model for current and future teachers to emulate, and we are honored to have her represent our state as the 2014-2015 Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Like many of us, Alternate Teacher of the Year Christopher Payne was inspired to become an educator by the teachers who taught him from kindergarten through high school. The Dothan High School Art instructor's students consider him among those "everyday heroes," as he continually strives to unlock their hidden potential by motivating them to believe in themselves.

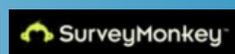
Equally important to Christopher is his work with Dothan High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Chapter, a peer-to-peer education, prevention, and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions. As chapter advisor, Christopher encourages students to be the change they want to see in other people and make a difference in the life of somebody every day.

The Alabama Teacher of the Year and Alternate State Teacher of the Year will spend much of the 2014-2015 school year serving as ambassadors for public education and the teaching profession. They are already off to a great start.

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Alabama Teacher of the Year Program 2014-2015 District Teachers of the Year



Katie Nettles
Gulf Shores Elementary
Baldwin County



Kelly Jo Hollingsworth
Cary Woods Elementary
Auburn City



Ellen Anson
Rocky Ridge Elementary
Hoover City



Lisa M. Burgess
Westwood Elementary
Tuscaloosa County



Denise Nelson
Wilson Elementary
Montgomery County



Deborah Hill
Locust Fork Elementary
Blount County



Ann Marie Corgill
Cherokee Bend
Elementary
Mountain Brook City



Shane Leopard
Brookhill Elementary
Athens City



Susanne Mahone
Daphne High
Baldwin County



Christopher D. Payne
Dothan High
Dothan City



Craig Thompson
Spain Park High
Hoover City



Chasidy White
Brookwood Middle
Tuscaloosa County



Rachel D. Dudley
Booker T. Washington
Magnet High
Montgomery County



Jackie Kelley
Wellborn High
Calhoun County



Carrie B. Jones
Hewitt Trussville High
Trussville City



Dr. Donny Matthew Dean
Buckhorn High
Madison County

Teacher of the Year

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As I listened to Ann Marie and Christopher and the other 2014-2015 District Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year share their stories during the recent ceremony in their honor, I wrote down some of their reflections:

"I teach because I want to be a change agent..."

"I am a teacher because I am a junkie for watching kids do extraordinary things..."

"That spark in my students' eyes, that's why I teach..."

"They (my students) keep me young, they keep me alive, they make me think of the world in a way that I never would. That's why I teach..."

"Everybody has a purpose in life. That's why I teach..."

"I try to teach them that learning is the best thing ever..."

Not once did I hear anything about rubrics, assessments, or test scores. I was humbled and inspired by their dedication to education, commitment to learning, and selflessness, which are all reflected in the accomplishments of their students.

We are proud and honored to have teachers of this caliber working in our Alabama public schools. 

Summer Learning Challenge

For Alabama's students, summer is a time of fun, but those months away from school can result in a loss of knowledge and reading ability. The Summer Learning Challenge raises awareness of the summer loss epidemic, shares compelling research on the importance of personalized reading activities, and provides access to a variety of free resources to support targeted reading and math summer learning.

There are **FREE** ways to keep students engaged and excited about education:

- The Lexile-based "Find a Book, Alabama" tool (Lexile.com/fab/Alabama) offers students over 160,000 books from which to choose. This book-search tool enables individuals to build custom reading lists based on their Lexile range and personal interests, and checks the availability of books at the local library. The search tool includes a growing collection of English literature and informational books.
- Children, parents, and educators can also pledge to read using the "Find a Book, Alabama" tool available now. We encourage all students to pledge to read.
- The Alabama Summer Learning Challenge also includes a **FREE e-mail-based math skills program** for children who have just completed second through fifth grades. Parents and other summer care-givers can begin registering for the program today. Starting Monday, June 23, parents will begin receiving daily e-mails with fun activities and resources to help their children retain math skills acquired during the previous school year. After the program ends on Friday, August 1st, parents can print an award certificate to celebrate their child's summer accomplishment!
- This summer, **Stride Academy** is FREE to all students in the state now until August 8. Prevent "Summer Slide" with a cool blend of online math, reading and science skills practice, spectacular video games and peer competitions to pass the lazy summer days. Students may access the **Stride Academy** learning platform online anytime, 24-7, on tablets, PCs and Macs. **LTS Education Systems** offers the **Stride Academy** game-based learning program, used in many Alabama school districts during and after-school hours for fun and personalized learning. Register and login at www.AlabamaSummerStride.com. LTS will provide a dedicated Parent Support Line for the Summer Learning Challenge. Parents can call in to 1-855-382-6528 for help with Stride Academy.



LINKS

"Find a Book Alabama" is offered in partnership with ALSDE and MetaMetrics, Inc. Choose your reader's comfort with grade level material or reading ability for a full list of books to read all summer! In English and Spanish. <http://www.lexile.com/fab/alabama>.

Don't forget to submit your Summer Reading Pledge now.
<http://www.lexile.com/fab/alabama>

Print your own [Bookmark!](#)

Print Posters and Flyers for your classroom and library!

Summer [Math Challenge](#) 8.5x11 size
Summer [Math Challenge](#) 11x17 size
Summer Learning Challenge [Flyer](#)

[FAQ Poster for Librarians](#)

[FAQ Poster for Parents](#)

Print the [Alabama Summer Reading Program Certificate](#)

Print the [Alabama Summer Math Challenge Certificate](#)

All Alabama Public Libraries

<http://www.publiclibraries.com/alabama.htm>. Visit your public library for book lists and summer reading programs for kids of all ages.

TIPS, RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

Mrs. Sherrill Parris, Deputy State Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, describes the importance of summer reading and literacy in this video.
<http://video.aptv.org/video/2228715693>

Thinking Outside the Book: Summer Reading
<http://www.ala.org/offices/publishing/booklist/booklinks/resources/summer>

Keeping Kids Off the Summer Slide
<http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/keeping-kids-off-the-summer-slide.htm>

American Library Association: Library Summer Reading Programs
<http://www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet1710>

Tips to Keep Reading Skills Sharp Over the Summer
http://www.thestar.com/life/parent/2010/06/22/10_tips_to_keep_reading_skills_sharp_over_the_summer.html

Summer Learning Loss: The Problem and Some Solutions

PTA: Reading Tips for Parents
<http://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3562>

USDA Deputy Under Secretary Joins ALSDE for “Summer Food Rocks!”

Summer Food Service Program Kickoff Rally aimed at boosting program participation

The Alabama State Department of Education

(ALSDE) Child Nutrition Unit, Troy City School System, and the City of Troy came together recently in the Charles Henderson High School (CHHS) Cafetorium to host “Summer Food Rocks!” as part of the National Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) kickoff events.

Dr. Janey Thornton, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS), served as the featured speaker for the second annual kickoff rally. Other special guests participating in the festivities included ALSDE Chief of Staff Dr. Craig Pouncey, Troy City School System Superintendent Lee Hicks, and City of Troy Mayor Jason A. Reeves.

“We are honored that the Alabama State Department of Education has chosen Troy for the location for the Summer Feeding Program kickoff,” Reeves said. “This program provides a valuable service to the children of our community. The Troy program is a model for other communities to follow.”

Children across the nation depend on free- or reduced-price school breakfasts and lunches throughout the school year. During summer months, the USDA Summer Food Service Program makes a difference in these children’s lives by providing access to nutritious meals when school is out.

In 2013, Alabama became the first state in the region to experience a substantial rise in the total number of meals provided to underserved children through the Summer Food Service Program. A total of 1,650,652 meals were served last year, compared to 1,265,105 in 2012. The 30.3 percent increase, or additional 385,547 meals served, was the highest among the states in the USDA’s Southeast Region, which includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Alabama also led the Southeast Region in the percentage increase of the total number of meals served in the summer, including National School Lunchroom Program meals, at 7.3 percent, followed by Georgia with 3.3 percent.

“You have to make sure you are eating nutritious meals during the summer so that when you return to school in the fall, you will be healthy and prepared to do well in your classes,” Thornton told students. “Your teachers, principals, and other state and local leaders gathered here today care about all of you and your success.”

In addition to Thornton, former NFL Wide Receiver Reggie Barlow talked to students about “Fuel Up to Play 60,” a program founded by the National Dairy Council and NFL, in collaboration with USDA, that empowers students to take

charge of their overall wellness by eating healthy meals and being physically active. Barlow has served as Alabama State University’s Head Football Coach since 2007.

Other “Summer Food Rocks!” attendees included representatives from the USDA Southeast Regional Office, representatives from the Southeast United Dairy Association, and local and state leaders. Prior to the rally, which featured performances by the CHHS “Blue Machine” Band and a special “kickoff” led by the CHHS Cheerleaders, guests were treated to a reception coordinated by students in the CHHS Culinary Arts Program.

Attendees munched on bacon and tomato canapés, veggie bars, asparagus

turnovers, Bugles dipped in chocolate, and other assorted treats, all prepared by culinary arts students.

The ALSDE continues to work diligently to reach new sponsors through partnerships with national, state, and local organizations. To see a list of 2014 Summer Food Service Program sites in Alabama, [click](#). If your organization is interested in becoming a 2014 SFSP sponsor or site, contact Alfredia Griffin, agriffin@alsde.edu (ALSDE Education Administrator), or Danielle Turk, dturk@alsde.edu (ALSDE Education Specialist), or call 334-242-8249. 



USDE Physical Education and Nutrition Program Grant Awarded to Gadsden City and Walker County Schools



The U.S. Department of Education has awarded 67 grants totaling more than \$33 million to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and community-based organizations that plan to implement comprehensive, integrated physical activity and nutrition programs for their students through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP). ALSDE is pleased to congratulate Gadsden City Schools and Walker County Schools for being recipients of this award.

Funding is intended to assist these entities with initiating, expanding, or enhancing physical education and nutrition education programs, including after-school programs for students in kindergarten through 12th grades. Through these programs, it is expected that students will develop an appreciation for lifelong, healthy nutrition and physical education habits, and make progress toward meeting their state standards for physical education.

Grant recipients must implement programs that help students make progress toward meeting their state standards for physical education. Gadsden County Schools plans to implement Project STRIDE: Supporting Teachers with Resources for Instruction in Diet and Exercise. 

Alabama's Green Ribbon Schools Honored at the May 14 Alabama State Board of Education Meeting

U.S. Secretary of Education (USDE) Arne Duncan announced three schools from Alabama are among the 2014 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Awardees. Alabama schools have been awarded national honors each year of the USDE Green Ribbon Schools program.

In February, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) announced the state's 2014 Green Ribbon Schools. The schools are honored for their approach to creating "green" environments through reducing environmental impact, promoting health, and ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education. The Alabama Green Ribbon Schools have been submitted for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program.



"To be selected as a national Green Ribbon School is an honor. We are so proud of the schools that diligently work to provide a healthy environment for our students," said Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Education. Bice continued, "The national awardees are models for all of Alabama's public schools."

The selected schools are honored for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs; promote better health; and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways.

The Alabama and USDE Green Ribbon Schools are:

- **F. E. Burluson Elementary School**, Hartselle City School System
- **Homewood Middle School**, Homewood City School System
- **Brock's Gap Intermediate School**, Hoover City School System

All schools received Alabama State Board of Education recognition at the May 14 meeting. The national recognition events begin on July 22 and include a reception, with optional walking tours of the National World War II Memorial, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Energy Museum and the U.S. Botanical Garden. 

CCRS Implementation Team Meeting Dates 2014-2015

September 23-26, 2014

9/23/14 Region 1 UNA Region 2 Athens Region 5 UAB Region 8 ASU/WCCS Region 11 Troy	9/24/14 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 10 USA Region 11 Troy	9/25/14 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 7 UM Region 9 AU Region 11 Troy	9/26/14 Region 1 UNA
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November 4-7, 2014

11/4/14 Region 1 UNA Region 2 Athens Region 5 UAB Region 8 ASU/WCCS Region 11 Troy	11/5/14 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 10 USA Region 11 Troy	11/6/14 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 7 UM Region 9 AU Region 11 Troy	11/7/14 Region 1 UNA
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February 10-13, 2015

02/10/15 Region 1 UNA Region 2 Athens Region 5 UAB Region 8 ASU/WCCS Region 11 Troy	02/11/15 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 10 USA Region 11 Troy	02/12/15 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 7 UM Region 9 AU Region 11 Troy	02/13/15 Region 1 UNA
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April 14-17, 2015

04/14/15 Region 1 UNA Region 2 Athens Region 5 UAB Region 8 ASU/WCCS Region 11 Troy	04/15/15 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 SU Region 10 USA Region 11 Troy	4/16/15 Region 3 AAMU/UAH Region 4 UA/UWA Region 6 JSU Region 9 AU Region 11 Troy	4/17/15 Region 1 UNA Region 7 UM
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ALFA Foundation to award \$50,000 in Scholarships

The Alfa Foundation is planning to award \$50,000 in scholarships for students at Alabama colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Alfa Insurance and Alabama Farmers Federation President Jimmy Parnell said the Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program is part of the organization's commitment to excellence in education.

The program is open to high school seniors and postsecondary undergraduates enrolled or planning to enroll in an Alabama two- or four-year college, university, or technical



school. The online application is available at AlfaInsurance.com.

Deadline for applications is June 30, 2014, with scholarships to be awarded in late August. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, and supplies required for coursework.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic record; demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities; honors; work experience; and statement of goals and aspirations.

Applicants must be a member of the Alabama Farmers Federation, with a minimum grade-point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Federation membership is available through any Alfa Insurance office in Alabama or by calling 1-800-964-2532.

The Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program is administered by Scholarship America®. Questions about the scholarship program should be addressed to: Alfa Foundation Scholarship Program, Scholarship Management Services, One Scholarship Way, Saint Peter, MN 56082 or call 507-931-1682. www.alfafoundation.org

eLearning's 2014 Summer Semester of classes

Early Bird session for those who need CEUs prior to the June 30, 2014, deadline for this year's renewals – the session will consist of four different six-week courses, each of which is worth 30 clock hours. This session will run from May 7th through June 24th and is available for registration in STIPD now:

EDU4452	Assessment in 21st Century Classrooms
EDU4456	Teaching Students to Think Critically with Data
EDU4458	Collaboration in the Digital Classroom
EDU4459	Project-Based Learning

The main semester will run from June 4th through July 22nd and will offer 45 different courses including some revised favorites along with some exciting new courses:

EDU4408	Teaching with Web 2.0 Skills
EDU4414	Cell Phones in Class
EDU4435	Digital Citizenship for the 21st Century Student
EDU4463	Spice Up Your Videos
EDU4464	Using Moodle 2.5 in the Classroom
EDU4473	Twitter and Facebook
EDU4474	iPads in the Classroom
SCI2880	Inquiry in the Science Classroom (3-5)
SCI3880	Inquiry in the Science Classroom (6-8)

For those needing ACLD-approved PLUs, there are eight of EDU55xx series that can lead to an ACLD-approved PLU with additional work. For those who have completed any of the EDU55xx series and need a PLU prior to the June 30, 2014, deadline, there are all eight of our PLUACLDxxx showcase courses from June 4-22. Details can be found on our PLU COURSES webpage.

Finally, three courses will run designed for counselors beginning the first Wednesday in May, June, and July according to the following schedule:

CCTI303E	Financial Aid & College Applications (4wks/20hrs) (May 7 - June 10)
CCTI101E	Building a College-Going Culture (4wks/20 hrs) (June 4 - July 8)
CCTI202E	College, Career, Academic Planning (4wks/20hrs) (July 2 - August 5)

Please look at our [webpage](#) for the complete schedule of classes and step-by-step instructions for using STIPD to register.

Building Energy Efficiency - Commissioning/ Retro-Commissioning Training

July 23, 2014

Birmingham, AL
Army National Guard – Birmingham LEED Certified Building

July 30, 2014

Troy, AL
Troy University Campus – classroom to be determined

August 6, 2014

Mobile, AL
University of South Alabama – classroom to be determined

The purpose of this workshop is to provide energy efficiency training as directed by Executive Order 25 to reduce energy consumption in facilities. The training content will be the same at each location. This workshop will provide

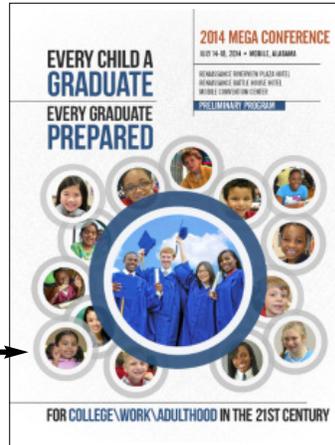


energy officers, property managers, building maintenance personnel, financial managers, and directors an overview of building energy efficiency through commissioning and retro-commissioning. The training focuses on operation and maintenance of equipment and components typically found in commercial buildings, including central heating, cooling, building automation systems, air and ventilating systems in buildings.

How to Register for the Commissioning Training:

E-mail liz.cochran@adeca.alabama.gov

Make plans now to
attend the 2014
MEGA CONFERENCE
July 14-18, 2014
in Mobile, Alabama
[Click here to view the
preliminary program!](#)



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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, gender, race, religion, national origin, color, age or genetics.

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; The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8165.

2014-2015
**Airport
MARINE**
High School Team Trail

**NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A SCHOOL FISHING TEAM,
NO MEMEBERSHIP FEES,
JUST NO HASSLE TOURNAMENT FISHING FOR THE KIDS!**

Fish One Event and Qualify for the Classic
7th & 8th Grade and High School Students Only.
Each Team must have a Boat Captain. Captain must be 21 years old or older.
Entry fee is \$40 per student, \$80 per boat with \$10 Big Fish (optional)
Payback 1 and 6 guaranteed 100%

\$1500 to 1st Place
\$1000 for team/\$500 Boat Captain Award (if in a Qualified Boat**)
\$500 Certificate toward a New Boat (if not in a Qualified Boat**)
Up to \$7,000 in Triton Gold***
\$1000 Scholarship to the Winning School
\$1000 To the Highest Finishing Airport Marine Fishing Team**

May 3 – Neely Henry @ City Launch
May 24 – Demopolis @ City Landing
June 14 – Logan Martin @ Lakeside

2014 High School Super Classic – June 21 on Lay Lake @ Paradise Point
August 23rd- Alabama River- Swift Creek
September 27th- Gville- State Park
October 25th- Millers Ferry- Selma City Landing
November 8th- Jordan- Bonner's
February 7th- Lake Martin- Wind Creek
February 21st- Mitchell- Higgins Ferry
March 21st- Neely Henry- City Landing
April 18th- Holt Res.- Rocky Branch
May 23rd- Demopolis- City Landing
June 13th- Logan Martin- Lakeside

2015 High School Super Classic – June 27, 2015 on Lay Lake @ Paradise Point
A fully rigged Triton or Ranger will be given to the Winning Team of the Classic.
Winning Boat Captain will win \$5000 if he is in a Qualified Boat**. If the Boat Captain is not in a Qualified Boat, he will receive a \$5,000 certificate toward purchase of a new boat from Airport Marine.

These are Triton Gold Sponsored Events***
Tournament Director: Flynn Gerald • Contact Airport Marine - 205-664-0407
* Like us on all social media (facebook, twitter, instagram, etc.) and have Airport Marine on Jerseys.
**Go to airportmarinetrails.com for registration and rules and regulations.
Qualified Boat is Original Owner, 2-year-old or newer purchased from Airport Marine.
***See Triton Gold for Qualifications.