

# ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

NEWS AND ISSUES IN ALABAMA PUBLIC EDUCATION, K-12

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 6 • MAY/JUNE 2011 • WWW.ALSDE.EDU • AEN@ALSDE.EDU

## STATE CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ADDRESS EDUCATION CONCERNS



### CONGRESSIONAL STATE BOARD ROUNDTABLE

As the 2013-2014 *No Child Left Behind* deadline for all schools to have students performing at 100% proficiency draws near, the all-or-nothing model needs to be replaced with a growth model that gives schools, school systems, teachers, parents, and students credit for the advancement they're making on the path to 100% proficiency.

— STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON

GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY and the members of the Alabama State Board of Education, along with State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton, hosted Alabama's congressional delegation at the first CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDTABLE in March. The purpose of the roundtable meeting was to bring together the state's representation in Washington, D.C., and address concerns that impact education in Alabama. It was the first time in history the congressional delegation met with all State Board members and the Governor to discuss issues around education that takes place in Washington and how they can all work together to collectively address the issues. Several topics including the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (*No Child Left Behind*, - NCLB) and federal funding for public education were discussed.

*continued on next page ...*

Attendees of the Roundtable meeting:

- 1st Congressional District: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JO BONNER (R)
- 2nd Congressional District: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA ROBY (R)
- 3rd Congressional District: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ROGERS (R)  
(Represented by Director of Special Projects, ALVIN LEWIS)
- 5th Congressional District: REPRESENTATIVE SPENCER BAGHUS (R)
- 6th Congressional District: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MO BROOKS (R)  
(Represented by Chief of Staff, MARK PETTIT)
- 7th Congressional District: REPRESENTATIVE TERRI SEWELL (D)  
(Represented by WILLIAM SCOTT)

- GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY (State Board President)
- RANDY MCKINNEY (State Board District I)
- BETTY PETERS (State Board District II)
- STEPHANIE BELL (State Board District III)
- YVETTE M. RICHARDSON (State Board District IV)
- ELLA B. BELL (State Board District V)
- CHARLES E. ELLIOTT (State Board District VI)
- GARY WARREN (State Board District VII)
- MARY SCOTT HUNTER (State Board District VIII)
- JOSEPH B. MORTON (State Board Secretary and Executive Officer)

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#### 6 PLUs Available Online!

Don't miss this opportunity to earn an ACLD PLU!

#### 8 Awards/Opportunities

Professional development opportunities for educators.

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State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton began the discussion on the topic of NCLB Reauthorization. Despite the need for modifications to the existing law to set realistic goals for most public schools, Morton commended the law on the ways



that it has improved education assessment over the years. Morton said NCLB, as it is known now, has been successful with the disaggregation of student data. He said the ability to drill down to individual student groups assists in making sure no groups of students are overlooked or camouflaged by overall averages. However, he said, the accountability aspect of the law presents problems in many, if not all, states. Changes to the law, whether by amendment or total reauthorization, are looming and the Roundtable discussion gave the members of Congress a tutorial on Alabama's primary concerns in advance of changes being made.

"When NCLB was created, the emphasis on reading, math, and either graduation rates for high schools or attendance for middle and elementary schools were good places to start. But, as the 2013-14 deadline for all schools to have students performing at 100% proficiency draws near, the all-or-nothing model needs to be replaced with a growth model that gives schools, school systems, teachers, parents, and students credit for the advancement they're making. Currently, schools making continual progress, including in the area of special education, may be making tremendous gains, but if they do not meet the NCLB cut score the entire school does not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)," said Morton.

"This is one of the changes Alabama hopes to influence in reauthorization."

DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION TOMMY BICE said students also excel in other areas outside of reading and math and that needs to be taken into consideration as well. "We have a lot of students who excel in the humanities, many others in career technical education. Without that being part of the big picture that tends to get left out of the discussion," Bice said.

Gov. Bentley said laws are not always in their best form when they are passed. "Just as laws are passed in Congress, laws are passed in Alabama, and sometimes we need to revisit those laws and see their consequences," Bentley said. "We'll see if there are ways to improve legislation ... we're all interested in making sure that our children get a good quality education."

Another idea introduced to the congressional delegation is the proposal to change the existing "Highly Qualified" (HQ) requirement to a more practical and meaningful definition of "Highly Effective." The defining characteristic of a HQ teacher is predicated upon what degree the teacher holds and the courses the teacher has taken. Although those are important, there are situations where a teacher may not be HQ by the NCLB definition, but is incredibly effective with his/her students. Recognizing teachers as Highly Effective gives school systems the leverage to place teachers that they know are effective with students who need them. The panel also discussed changing the requirements for obtaining federal funds through programs like the federally funded Race to the Top (RTTT) Initiative.

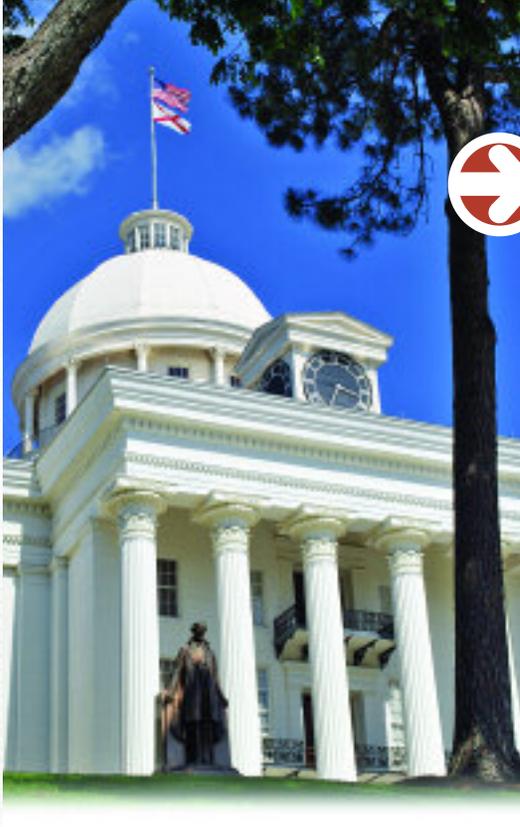
There are specifications contained within the RTTT plan that are not conducive to many areas in Alabama, particularly rural areas. Giving the states the right to make up their own turn-around efforts was a suggested option. Alabama (one of only eight states in the nation) not receiving federal funding for a needed longitudinal data system was also discussed. The group discussed federal funding for

career and technical education and special education. In 1975, Congress said it would fund 40% of the cost for special education – that never happened and the state has to assume the costs. Because of a federal prerequisite called Federal Maintenance of Effort Requirement states must spend at least as much money in the state as they did the previous year in certain areas. If not, the state has to either take a cut or refund money to the federal government. "In a recession that's extremely hard to do," Morton said. "There has to be a way to apply common sense to these regulations so that states that do not have the money are not forced by requirement to spend the same amount of money they did when they had the money. It's nobody's fault – it's the recession."

Overall, congressional members felt the Roundtable was informative and set a precedent for representatives to work in tandem with the Alabama Department of Education to bring issues to light in Washington from Alabama's perspective. Representative Roby, who is on the NCLB reauthorization committee, said she left the Roundtable "armed with information." Representative Bachus said the messages heard at the Roundtable need to be echoed to the powers that be. "One of the messages that we need to take back to Washington, D.C., is, if [the federal government] can't give you money because they're broke then it can at least give you



relief from the burden of regulations and the strings that are attached that keep you from doing the great job you're doing," Bachus said. "This is as good a presentation as I've seen on how to change [NCLB] for the better. It makes perfect sense." ●



## Legislative Session Roundup

**THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION** is comprised of many enacted and proposed bills affecting public education in the state. Some of the bills have already or could change the landscape of daily school life for teachers and students.

The Education budget, the most important legislation that must be decided in any Legislative

Session, at press time was very close to final passage. Representative Jay Love proposed a revised Education budget for next year that would spend \$80 million less than **GOVERNOR ROBERT BENTLEY** proposed for teacher units salaries, but spend \$80 million more than Bentley proposed for utility bills, support workers' pay, and other school operating expenses. Representative Love's budget also included an increase of \$25 million for school transportation

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON** said most Other Current Expenses (OCE) money is spent by schools to pay utility bills and support workers' salaries. Morton also said, "This additional funding would help local school districts keep the lights on, keep campuses clean, and allow for students to learn in a safe and clean environment."

Enacted on March 11, Act 2011-003, the Education Trust Fund Budget Stabilization Fund (also known as the Rolling Reserve Bill), provides for the maximum amount that may be appropriated annually from the Education Trust Fund; and provides for the establishment and operation of a budget stabilization fund and a capital fund for the Education Trust Fund.

This new process of appropriating funds for the Education budget allows for an average of the last 15 years of revenue to be used in calculating the Education budget for the coming fiscal year. Any extra revenue would be put into a savings account that will first pay the Rainy Day fund back for previous years' withdrawals and then be appropriated for schools.

The Repeal of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), Act 2011-27, was enacted on March 24, with Governor Bentley adding new language allowing for state employees and teachers who had already submitted paperwork to join. No other employees can enter the program after the Governor's signing. DROP was a state program designed to retain experienced teachers and public employees for three to five more years (who might otherwise retire).

**SENATOR ARTHUR ORR** has sponsored SB271, seeking to offer more alternatives to local boards of education in making up days of school lost to emergencies and natural disasters. It is extremely timely in respect to the devastating storms and tornadoes of April 27, 2011.

Other bills have been proposed that could significantly alter laws and policies for local schools. Here is a sampling:

- ➔ The *Students First Act of 2011*, proposed by **REPRESENTATIVE CHAD FINCHER**, addresses revisions in teacher tenure, fair dismissal, and teacher transfer. This bill would establish the *Students First Act of 2011* and amends, revises, and repeals certain sections of the Teacher Tenure law (including teacher transfers found in Title 16 of the *Code of Alabama* and the Fair Dismissal law found in Title 36 of the *Code of Alabama*). The Alabama State Board of Education adopted a resolution of support for tenure reform during an April 28, 2011, Postsecondary meeting.
- ➔ **REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MERRILL** has introduced a bill that would decrease the mandatory minimum age of children required to attend school from 7 to 6 years of age. Morton said, "I support reducing the age to 6. It does not affect private school or home schooled children. I have met and worked with Rep. Merrill on his bill. The number of seven-year-olds enrolling for the first time averages about 50 per year, but many of them are woefully behind their peers."
- ➔ HB 0183, offered by **REPRESENTATIVE JEREMY ODEN**, seeks to increase the population amount needed for city school system formation. This bill would increase the minimum population requirement for a city school system from 5,000 to 7,500 and would require the Alabama Department of Education to determine the financial capability of a municipality to sustain a school system before the municipality could establish a city school system.
- ➔ Under existing law, the number of teacher units provided a K-12 public school for the apportioning of Foundation Program funds is based upon the number of pupils in average daily membership at the school and may be a fractional number. **STATE SENATOR DICK BREWBAKER** has offered a bill that would allow local boards of education to combine fractional teacher units to make a whole unit and would allow the local board of education to place those teachers where needed in the school system. This bill would also provide that any funds received by a local board of education for a fractional unit that are not combined to make a whole teacher unit will be available for use by the local board of education for salaries and benefits. ●

# EVERY CHILD A GRADUATE

## Alabama's Dropout Awareness Campaign



THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SDE) recently unveiled a plan to combat dropouts with a multi-pronged approach that includes innovative educational programs and community wrap-around support. The campaign includes many aspects designed to help students achieve the goal of graduation. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON said, "There is no single reason students drop out. There are a multitude of reasons students drop out of high school: disengagement, family problems, teen pregnancy, and poor grades. I believe the only way to address the problem is with a multi-pronged attack."

At the core of Alabama's efforts is the Alabama Select Commission on High School Graduation and Student Dropouts. The commission helped to lead the brigade with its report - *Every Child a Graduate* - identifying factors in the national dropout epidemic and developing a set of recommendations that when fully implemented should have a significant and positive effect on the students currently attending our public schools, the communities within which they live, and the state. SENATOR ARTHUR ORR, a Commission member, said, "This is truly a people issue, not just an economic one. The fiscal cost of dropouts to our state is large, but so is the human cost."

The ambitious goal of this Commission is to see a 25% reduction in our dropout rate by 2015 using as a baseline the dropout rate for the 2008-2009 academic year. It will be through the collaborative efforts of all Alabama's citizens, in partnership with the business community, that this goal becomes a reality.

Community involvement is a major part of making this campaign a reality. Organizations such as The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation and the David C. Matthews Center for Civic Life create awareness of the problem by hosting events and community forums and bringing their message into schools. DR. SHELLY STEWART, founder of the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, said, "It has to go beyond education, it has to come from the community." The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation was created to help educators, community leaders, and other interested groups reduce the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate through the creation of relevant and effective tools and resources. The Choice Bus is a tool for the purpose of extending the learning experience of the InsideOut documentary outside the classroom and keeping students on the road to a good education. This experience-based learning tool contains a "real" jail

cell connected to an interactive learning environment. On April 15, all sixth-grade students in the state watched the InsideOut documentary that shows the consequences of dropping out.

The David C. Matthews Center for Civic Life's purpose is to foster infrastructure, habits, and capacities for more effective civic engagement and innovative public decision making. The Matthews Center is focused on how citizens create political will and sustain public policy community decisions. The "What Should We Do" community forums, with over 800 attendees this year, have helped local Alabama communities to address the dropout issue with a strong, unified front. Using the information gathered through forum reflections and post-forum questionnaires, the Matthews Center provides annual reports to the public on how citizens are thinking about issues in the following areas: citizen responsibilities, education, economic development, and public health.

Also involved in the campaign is the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs, led by DR. MARQUITA DAVIS. Davis, a member of the Alabama Select Commission on High School Graduation and Student Dropouts, spoke at the press conference to unveil the campaign and said, "We can't get to success in a silo. This is an issue for families, schools, and entire communities. We have to support kids early, so they will succeed later." With a Children's Affairs Policy Council in every Alabama county, the Department of Children's Affairs is dedicated to the well-being of children from birth through young adulthood.

SDE programs help to fulfill the goals of the Alabama Select Commission on High School Graduation and Student Dropouts, as well as further the efforts of the community, state, and national groups. FIRST CHOICE, the program that began the campaign, offers academic flexibility and varying diploma options. Under FIRST CHOICE, all students are automatically

"There is no single reason students drop out - the only way to address the problem is with a multi-pronged attack."  
- STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION DR. JOE MORTON



"This is an issue for families, schools, and entire communities."  
- DR. MARQUITA DAVIS,  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS



"It has to go beyond education, it has to come from the community."  
- MATTIE C. STEWART  
FOUNDATION FOUNDER  
DR. SHELLY STEWART



"This is truly a people issue, not just an economic one. The fiscal cost of dropouts to Alabama is large, but so is the human cost."  
- Senator Arthur Orr



on track for the Advanced Academic endorsement diploma. This encourages students to challenge themselves and take more classes during high school. "Because of FIRST CHOICE, we no longer just know the numbers, we know the **names** of the students that need more help, and we credit our local school systems for achieving this," said **DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT DR. TOMMY BICE**.

Programs such as Credit Recovery, Academic Flexibility, Graduation Coaches, and Innovative Pathways address the needs of students to help to ensure graduation and guide them through the process efficiently. Credit Recovery allows students to demonstrate competency on a segment of the course and receive course credit or earn promotion without having to retake the entire course. Academic Flexibility gives students in school and out of school educational opportunities to make up time lost in the classroom due to extenuating circumstances. Graduation Coaches, "a safety net for students," serve as



## Every Child a Graduate

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

mentors for at-risk students, advising them on innovative pathways for coursework and other behavioral, social, and emotional issues to keep them on task, which ultimately increases their odds for graduation. Innovative Pathways, which allows creative construction of new options for students to ensure graduation, is another new approach to learning environments that the SDE is offering to local districts.

Soon available to all school districts, a new technology using current data, the Alabama Graduation Tracking System, has proved effective in the districts where it has been implemented. This new system is designed to track students from Pre-K to Grade 12 and alerts administrators to the ABCs - attendance, behavior, and course credit. The Graduation Tracking System allows school officials to intervene in a timely way and help a student early on to get back on track.

Another part of the multi-pronged approach to ending dropouts in the state is a state law - the *Dropout Prevention Act of 2009: 564*. This law increased the mandatory attendance age to 17 with a few exemptions, and also instituted a "student exit interview" that all students and parents of students who desire to leave school must complete.

"The goal of this campaign is to make the public more aware of the dropout problem." Bice said. "We all own this issue, and together can educate ourselves into a new economy." ●

# Alabama Teacher of the Year Program 2011 District Finalists

**THE FINALISTS** for the Alabama Department of Education's (SDE) Teacher of the Year Program have been selected. The "Sweet 16" were chosen from 152 nominees from across the state for the position of Alabama's 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year. The final four have been selected and the Alabama Teacher of the Year will be named at the *2011 Alabama Stars in Education Awards* - a statewide **LIVE** broadcast event, hosted by the SDE and Alabama Public Television, on **May 11**. Alabama's 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year is also a candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

"Even in lean budget years, these sixteen teachers have accomplished great things with the students they teach and interact with daily. We are very proud of these teachers and hope they inspire others throughout Alabama," said **STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON**.

Visit [www.apt.org](http://www.apt.org) and [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu) for more information about the *2011 Alabama Stars in Education Awards*. ●



Dr. Gay F. Barnes  
Horizon Elementary



Paula Dean  
Carver Magnet



Angela Diane Franks  
Appalachian School



Marcia Slay Farabee  
Hokes Bluff High



Christal Hall  
McIntosh Elementary



Dr. Jamie Ladnier-Hicks  
Castlen Elementary



Marla R. Hines  
Vestavia Hills High



Susan Andrea Kuzma  
Prattville High



Joyce C. Lilly  
Sycamore Elementary



Dr. Brenda Massey  
Weeden School



Katherine Pitts  
Thomasville High



Adina J. Stone  
Sheffield High



Richard S. Sturgeon  
Hoover High



Jennifer Monie de Torres  
ClarkShaw Magnet

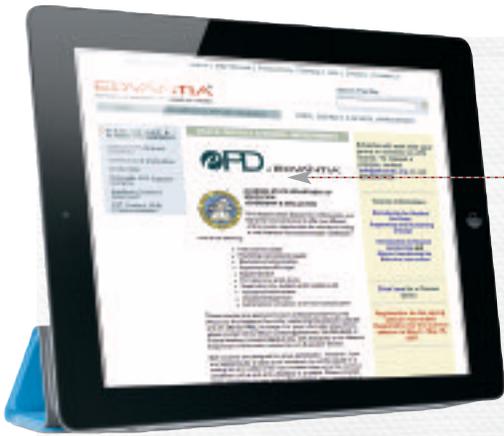


Cari Prickett Wilson  
R.L. Young Elementary



Pamela Yau  
Edgewood Elementary

□ = Finalist



## ACLD PLUs Available Online Through EDVANTIA

*Don't miss this opportunity to earn an ACLD-Approved PLU!*

MANY EDUCATORS have contacted the Alabama Department of Education's Leadership and Evaluation unit in search of professional study to earn a professional learning unit (PLU) through the Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) for their upcoming certification renewal. In an effort to assist educators seeking professional studies to earn an ACLD-approved PLU, and in collaboration with Edvantia, the ACLD announces the availability of approved professional studies – *offered at no cost to the participant!*

Due to the design of the online professional studies, participants **must** have basic computer skills. It is strongly recommended that participants review the Course Demo **prior** to starting a professional study. To participate in an EDVANTIA professional study, register online [HERE](#). **Registration for summer sessions will be open May 9-18.**

AVAILABLE COURSES:

### **Shared Leadership (1 PLU)**

STI PD Title Number: PLUACLD044

*Expected start date: July 1, 2011*

*Approximate date of completion: September 16, 2011*

This 10-week online course will provide participants with the knowledge and ability to utilize and to plan for sustained continuous school improvement in classrooms, schools, and school systems/local education agencies (LEAs). Participants will earn 1 PLU upon successful completion.

### **Reculturing for Student Success (2 PLUs)**

STI PD Title Number: PLUACLD045

*Expected start date: June 6, 2011*

*Approximate date of completion: September 23, 2011*

This 16-week online course professional study provides participants with the knowledge and ability to promote and monitor a high-performance learning culture that promotes success for all students. Participants will earn 2 PLUs upon successful completion.

## New Hope School Publishes Book

Madison County's New Hope School stars in a newly released children's book – *Hello, Little Indian!*

*Hello, Little Indian!* is the first elementary school book published in Alabama by Virginia-based Mascot Books. ([www.mascotbooks.com](http://www.mascotbooks.com)), which awarded free books to New Hope School for participating in the "First Mascot in Your State" program.



In the hardcover book, elementary school readers join their lively mascot as they experience events and activities that make New Hope School a special place for students, teachers, administrators, and parent volunteers. The Little Indian recites the Pledge of Allegiance, attends an art and music class, enjoys a slice of pizza during lunch with friends, visits the library, and enjoys playing during recess. *Hello, Little Indian!* promotes reading, builds school spirit, and serves as a school fundraiser.

*Hello, Little Indian!* is available exclusively through New Hope School. Contact Amy Largen at [alargen@madison.k12.al.us](mailto:alargen@madison.k12.al.us).

*New Hope Elementary School Principal: Donnie Andrew Caves*

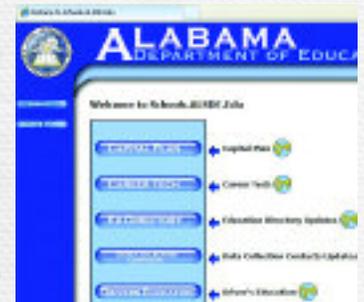
*New Hope High School Principal: Mr. Lavell Everett*

*Madison County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Terry Davis*

*State Board of Education Member, District 8: Mary Scott Hunter*

## New, Easier Education Directory Access

Administrators and teachers now have an easy way to update contact information!



To keep your school information up to date, visit

<https://schools.alsde.edu/>, click on the "ED DIRECTORY" button. Once you log in, click on the "Account" link (on the side menu) to update school information, home address, and phone. To update your email address, contact the SDE Helpdesk at 334-353-1250 or [helpdesk@alsde.edu](mailto:helpdesk@alsde.edu).

Your email address, listed in the Education Directory, will be used for all communication. If your contact information is not updated correctly, school personnel may not get needed information. Take a minute to check your information and update it today.

## Alabama Student Showcased in National Television Ad Campaign



A national ad campaign during the ESPN/CBS-TV Sports coverage of the 2011 Masters Golf Tournament spotlighted successful Advanced Placement (AP) programs and students, including Minor High School senior JELANI

GRACE, an AP student participating in Alabama's A+ College Ready program ([www.mynmsistory.com/stories/jelani\\_grace/](http://www.mynmsistory.com/stories/jelani_grace/)).

Grace, who was selected from students and teachers across the country, was featured in the ad series introduced by Phil Mickelson and sponsored by ExxonMobil and the [National Math and Science Initiative](#). At a recent school pep rally/celebration, ExxonMobil presented a \$10,000 check to Minor High School!

Grace's parents did not attend college but college is his #1 goal. He has taken – so far – AP Biology, AP U.S. History, AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP Psychology, AP Calculus, and AP Physics. Since the commercial, offers have been rolling in, but currently Grace plans to major in political science and history at Auburn University.

*Minor High School Principal: David R. Pike*

*Jefferson County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Phillip B. Hammonds*

*State Board of Education Member, District 4: Dr. Yvette M. Richardson*

## Enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies

What began as a small pilot project in six Missouri schools has grown to reach schools nationwide – including the [Baldwin County School System](#).

Baldwin County has 34 teachers in 20 schools (16 elementary and 4 middle) involved in [eMINTS](#) (enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies), which has been recognized by the International Society for Technology in Education and the U.S. Department of Education in its National Educational Technology Plan.

eMINTS classrooms include 21st century technology for students and teachers. eMINTS includes instructional strategies that focus on inquiry-based teaching to engage students in real-world projects and research, higher-order thinking skills, cooperative learning, and building a community of learners.

eMINTS teachers participate in 230 hours of professional development over two years and receive monthly coaching visits. The Baldwin eMINTS program is primarily supported by Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Competitive Grants. eMINTS also has received financial and verbal support from the Baldwin County Legislative Delegation, which has resulted in funds for 13 classrooms.

For more information, contact Margaret Blake, [mblake@bcbe.org](mailto:mblake@bcbe.org), IT Coordinator, 251-972-6850.

*Elsanor Elementary School Principal: Susan Runnels*

*Baldwin County Schools Superintendent: Dr. Alan T. Lee*

*State Board of Education Member, District 1: Randy McKinney*



## Alabama Schools Win Technology Awards for Transforming Learning

Two Alabama school systems won national technology awards at the [Consortium for School Networking](#) (CoSN) annual conference in New Orleans.

The CULLMAN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM won the TEAM Award, which recognizes a leadership team whose impact on the role of technology in transforming learning has been significant.

DONNA WILLIAMSON, Technology Administrator for the MOUNTAIN BROOK CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM, won Honorable Mention for the Withrow CTO Award for Educators that recognizes an education technology leader in a K-12 school district or educational service agency who has been a true technology champion.

CoSN Awards recognize individuals, teams, and volunteers who demonstrate outstanding vision in the use of information

technologies and the Internet in K-12 education. Both awards are based on:

1. Leadership
2. Building Community
3. Innovation
4. Impact
5. Public/Private Partnerships

Founded in 1992, the CoSN

mission is to empower K-12 school district technology leaders to use technology strategically to improve teaching and learning.

*Cullman City Schools Superintendent: Dr. Jan Harris*

*Mountain Brook City Schools Superintendent: Richard C. Barlow*

*State Board of Education Member, District 6: Dr. Charles E. Elliott*



## ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

Volume 34 · No. 6 · May/June 2011

### ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Joseph B. Morton

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*Alabama Education News* (USPS #387-290) is published monthly except for June, July, and December by the Alabama Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101. Periodicals postage paid at Montgomery, AL and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Alabama Education News*, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101. *Alabama Education News* is composed by the Alabama Department of Education's Communication Section and printed by Walker360 of Montgomery. This publication, authorized by Section 16-2-4 of the *Code of Alabama*, as recompiled in 1975, is a public service of the Alabama Department of Education designed to inform citizens and educators about programs and goals of public education in Alabama.

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Printed on 10% post-consumer recovered fiber paper with soy-based inks



## MOHAJERIN NAMED ALFA TEACHER OF MONTH



While it's not every day people are rewarded for doing the right thing, Janie Mohajerin, English teacher and department chair at Georgia Washington Junior High School, knows a little reward now and again is just the ticket for keeping students engaged and excited about learning.

Mohajerin earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education and language arts from Auburn University Montgomery. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in instructional leadership from The

University of Alabama.

During 2011, Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation are honoring one outstanding teacher from each of Alabama's eight state board districts, two principals, and two private school teachers. Application information is available under Ag Links in the Agricultural Resources Section of [AlfaFarmers.org](http://AlfaFarmers.org).

*Superintendent: Barbara W. Thompson · Ella B. Bell, Board District 5*

## Awards, Opportunities, and Professional Development

For a complete listing of awards and professional development opportunities, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Make Plans Now To Attend These Great Summer Conferences!**

**2011 AETC Conference**

**JUNE 15-16, 2011 · BIRMINGHAM**  
BIRMINGHAM JEFFERSON CONVENTION COMPLEX

<http://li.alsde.edu/aetc/>

**2011 Mega Conference**

**JULY 18-22, 2011 · MOBILE**  
RENAISSANCE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL /  
RENAISSANCE BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL /  
MOBILE CONVENTION CENTER