



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Surry County School System Honors Educators of the Year 2019**

DOBSON, NC - Last week, Surry County Schools honored Educators of the Year with breakfast at the Barn at Heritage Farm in Dobson, North Carolina. The annual event is a celebration of excellence in teaching and learning and recognizes the district Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year, as well as school-level Teachers of the Year.

Each Teacher of the Year and the Principal of the Year received a certificate, a parking sign to be placed at their school, an embroidered jacket, and a monetary award from the Board of Education. The district Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year also received a plaque and an additional gift from business partner, Mr. Ryan Flake with Horace Mann.

Musical Selections, *You Say* by Lauren Daigle and *A Million Dreams* by Pink were performed by the principal of Dobson Elementary, Mrs. Sharia Templeton, and Surry County Schools alumna, Miss Ally Coe to coincide with the district's vision, *Designing Dreams. Growing Leaders.*

The Surry County Schools 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Deanne Fitzgerald, physical education teacher at Rockford Elementary delivered a very inspiring speech. "Chase your dreams as an educator. Set goals for what you want to accomplish as a teacher and what you want your students to accomplish. . . . Let students see you attempt new things. If you fail, let them see you pick yourself up and try again because there is a lesson in failure."

Mrs. Nicole Hazelwood, the Surry County Schools 2019-2020 Principal of the Year and principal of White Plains Elementary also addressed educators after challenging Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves, to a riveting game of Jenga. Mrs. Hazelwood explained the challenge by sharing her reflections on the Mark Miller (2017) book, *Leaders Made Here*. "Mark Miller states, 'Leadership is the cornerstone of all great organizations.' My challenge for you this school year is to be like the cornerstone and lay your foundation for the year. John C. Maxwell says, 'Everything rises and falls on leadership.' Let us continue to rise this year on your leadership and build the strongest tower yet."

Dr. Travis L. Reeves, Superintendent of Surry County Schools remarked, "Thank you for the hard work and effort you put into your lessons so the children of Surry County get a world-class education. I am proud to serve as the Superintendent of Surry County Schools alongside you to support students. I challenge each of us to strive every day this school year to help all students design their dreams and grow as leaders."

**Pictured left to right on Front row:** Justin Collins (MMMS), Tracie Whitaker (CES), Betty France (WES), Deanne Fitzgerald (Surry County Schools 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year, RES), Melodie Ellie (SES), Eden Phillips (WPES), Donna Nester (FRES)

**Pictured left to right on Middle Row:** Lucila Cabrera (FES), Melanie Billings (NSHS), Siomara Baltazar (DES), Nicole Hazelwood (Surry County Schools 2019-2020 Principal of the Year, WPES), Alison Slate (SEC), Trudy Felts (CRES), Robin Layman (PMES), Melissa Sanders (MPES)

**Pictured left to right on Back row:** Chad Freeman (ESHS), Kellie Cochran (CMS), Andrea Hudson (PMMS), Kelly Cave (GMS), Ken Eiswald (SCHS)

