

NCAE

News Bulletin

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The Power of Our Union & the Promise of Public Schools



NCAE

**Preparations Underway for the 2023 NCAE
Convention and Representative Assembly**



Tamika Walker Kelly
President

Excitement, Recommitment and Renewal

I am excited! Why, you ask? For a lot of reasons! The first being the upcoming NCAE Convention and Representative Assembly (April 1-2 in Greensboro). It's the first time in two long years we've been able to meet in person.

And, while there, I know the delegates will recommit and dig deep into the work as well as embrace the Association's strategic plan, which will give us a new prospective for the future.

This long legislative session also has me excited about the changes we could possibly make to education policy in North Carolina. It's early in the game, but we have already been busy meeting with legislators and monitoring bills. As we build our advocacy stamina, this would be a great time for you to decide how you want to engage. Whether becoming a Legislative Contact Team member, or sending emails to your Senator or Representative, or writing a letter to the editor, it's an opportunity for you to lean into your educator leadership and advocacy and pick a "thing"

that will spark you to action.

And, as I've stressed multiple times before, it's important to stay aware of the issues, which you can do via the weekly Education Insight newsletter, and by having conversations with your colleagues, family members and friends, so they, too, can pay attention to what's occurring and be good supporters!

Another exciting point for me is the three membership blitzes we coordinated, the most recent being in Charlotte. We have increased our fold by a couple hundred and that growth contributes to our power as an organization. We have to be steady and committed to continuing to grow NCAE because as we do, we breathe new life into the Association. Welcoming new members, re-engaging our current members and building connections in the community helps us keep our focus on what matters most – our students, each other and the work we do.

Last, but certainly not least, I am excited about this time of year in general – Spring! Especially this year, after quite an interesting winter, the sense of renewal and blossoming taking place is a welcome change. We're well into the second half of the school year but still in an intensive stretch as we count down to spring break and the end of school. It won't be long now, but before then we have a lot to accomplish. I encourage you to stay the course with me as we move toward making public education in North Carolina better than ever! I'm counting on you!

Celebrating the Accomplishments of Women During the Month of March





Students at Morganton Road Elementary Celebrate the Magic of Reading



It was a “magical” day at Morganton Road Elementary School in Fayetteville as NCAE helped students and staff celebrate Read Across America Day. President Tamika Walker Kelly felt right at home in the place she formerly taught music as she read the book “*I Am Enough*.” Vice President Bryan Proffitt engaged everyone in the story of Hip-Hop with his book “*When the Beat Was Born*.”

Literacy and the importance of reading were the focus of the program, but students were also treated to a magic show by Rockstar Magic of Chris and Neal. Shouts and squeals of delight could be heard throughout the room as the magicians captivated the students with their spectacular entertainment and educational message.

“I am so thrilled we were able to provide this wonderful experience for the students at Morganton Road Elementary,” said President Walker Kelly. “The smiles on their faces reflected such joy and amazement. Read Across America Day 2023 was truly amazing!”

Other special surprises included the gift of the book “*Kids Who Are Changing the World*” to each student from NCAE and swag items from the Charlotte Hornets and Horace Mann Insurance Company.



Member Candidates Running for NCAE/NEA Offices

(To read more about each candidate, click on the member's name)

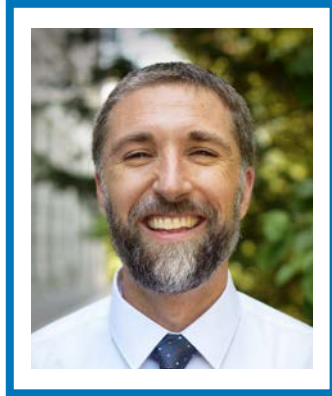
STATE AND NATIONAL POSITIONS



PRESIDENT
[Tamika Walker Kelly](#)



PRESIDENT
[LeVon Barnes](#)



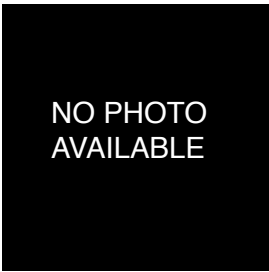
VICE PRESIDENT
[Bryan Proffitt](#)



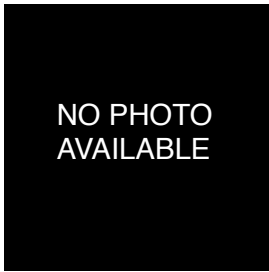
NEA DIRECTOR
[Turquoise Parker](#)

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

DIVISION OF PRINCIPALS/ ADMINISTRATORS



REGION 1-B
[James Hallyburton](#)



REGION 2
[Michele Jordan](#)



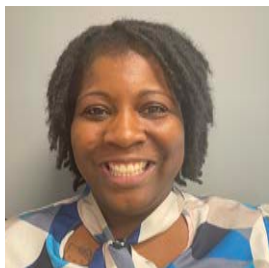
REGION 3
[Steve Oreskovic](#)



PRESIDENT
[Dr. Tiffany Smith](#)



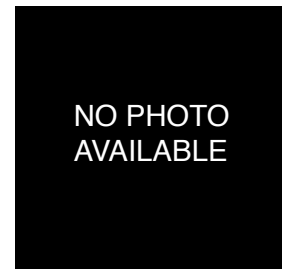
REGION 4
[Brian Link](#)



REGION 5
[Sharita Jones](#)



REGION 6
[Monche Simmons](#)



VICE PRESIDENT
[Anthony Whitaker](#)

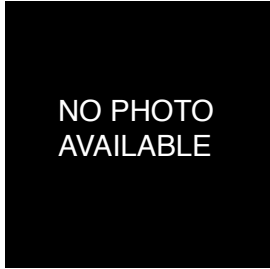
Member Candidates Running for NCAE/NEA Offices

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DIVISION OF PRINCIPALS/ ADMINISTRATORS



SECRETARY
Dr. Cathy Tomon



TREASURER
Kelvin Chadwick



REGION 1-A
Chad Upton



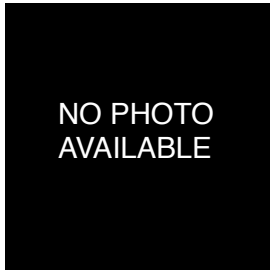
REGION 2
Maria McGhee



REGION 4
John Heath



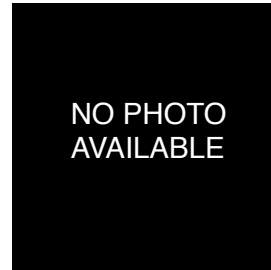
REGION 6
John Bryant



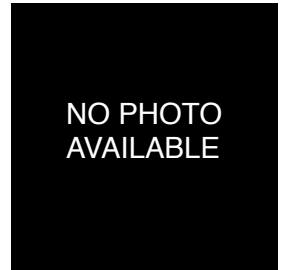
REGION 6
Courtney Pearson



REGION 7-A
Melonee Hunter



REGION 7-A
Kristian Herring



REGION 7-B
John Wood

STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION



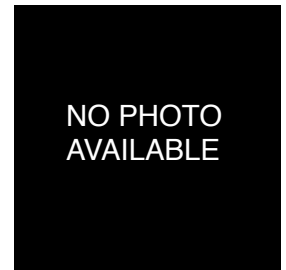
PRESIDENT
Shana Richards



REGION 2
Tonya Withers



REGION 3
Kasaundra Moody



REGION 3
Kevin Vickers

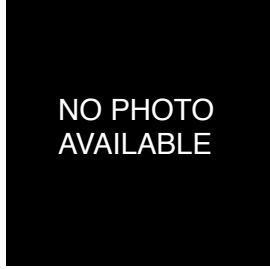
Member Candidates Running for NCAE/NEA Offices

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STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION



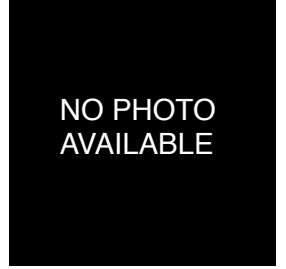
REGION 4
Joanna Pendleton



REGION 5
Tameeka Williams-Burchette

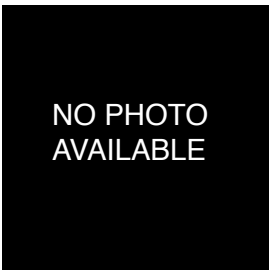


REGION 6
Monche Simmons



REGION 6
Linda Robbins

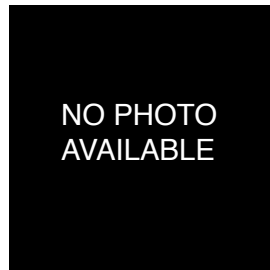
EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL



SECRETARY
Tammy Smith



REGION 3
Beryl Torrence



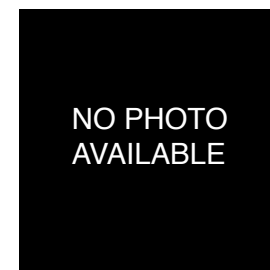
REGION 4
Jacqueline Scales



REGION 5
Ernest Williams



REGION 6
Brandon Southern



REGION 6
Peggy Locklear

Celebrating “Music In Our Schools”

March is probably more famous for Read Across America, but it is also the month “Music In Our Schools” is celebrated. Each day music educators not only get to teach students about the joys of music, but its importance in communities around the globe. The *News Bulletin* editor reached out to our music educator members to ask why they choose a career as a music teacher, what they find most fun about teaching music, and why it’s an important part of the school curriculum. Here are a few of the responses:

“Music is food for the soul in so many ways. It’s the ultimate social/emotional toolbox and if we truly want to educate the whole child, excellent music education is essential. Music teaches every subject. And, it teaches empathy, cultural understanding and true communication.” – **Margy Butterfield**, elementary music teacher, Catawba County

“The ‘aha’ moments just seem to come faster in music. The ability to achieve something in a short time keeps students practicing and coming back to increase their skill level over and over again. It just never gets old because you’re never finished.” – **Lenny French**, high school chorus and percussion and modern band teacher, Guilford County

“I chose music as my career because I had a positive experience in my own music classes growing up. I remember being selected to perform with an extracurricular group in fourth grade. I was thrilled. But then the teacher asked if I’d be willing to sing a short solo in the program. I never really thought of myself as musical, but Mrs. Robertson thought differently. These positive experiences continued through middle school band and into my high school experience, where I really started to feel the power of music in my life. I wanted to provide those experiences for my own students.” – **Ryan Ellefsen**, high school music teacher, Chapel Hill/Carrboro

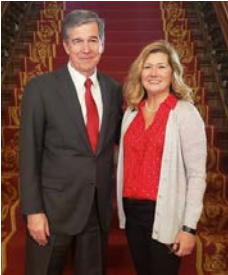
“Music has been a part of my life since childhood. Both of my parents were musicians and teachers. Throughout my public school education, I had so many amazing musical opportunities. I learned leadership skills, I loved the competition, I loved being a part of something big. I wouldn’t have had these experiences without amazing and dedicated educators and I wanted to give back. Thirty years later I’m still in the classroom sharing my love of music with thousands of students.” -- **Susan Reynolds**, elementary music teacher, Wake County

[Click here](#) to read more

P R O U D
MOMENTS

Forsyth Co. Member Recipient of Governor’s Educator Discovery Award

NCAE member **Debra Troxell**, a social studies teacher at West Forsyth High School in Forsyth County, is one of five teachers who was recently awarded the Governor’s Educator Discovery Award by Governor Roy Cooper and the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE). The award is a stipend of up to \$1,000 for teachers in PreK-12 traditional public and public charter schools to pursue a professional development experience of their choosing.



Troxell was able to attend the National Council for Geographic Education Conference in Minneapolis. At the conference she was able to participate in sessions sponsored by Esri on GIS technology, which is software used to create maps and display geographic data. This knowledge will allow her to create interactive lessons using the same technology that professionals use for her AP Human Geography students, preparing them for a wide array of careers.

Teachers submit a proposal with details about their teaching experience, the professional development activity

they wish to pursue, and how it would enhance their efforts to create work-based learning activities for their students. These applications then go through a rigorous review process and are narrowed down to outstanding winners. [Cycle 10 is now open](#). Applications are due March 31.

NC Teachers Continue to Lead Nation in National Board Certification

North Carolina continues to lead the nation in the number of teachers who have earned National Board Certification, with 486 additional teachers earning the endorsement during the 2021-22 school year.

Data released in January by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) shows North Carolina now has a total of 23,858 teachers with the respected credential.



North Carolina school districts also continue to rank among the top 25 districts nationwide by numbers of new teachers holding national certification, with six districts making the list:

- 2nd – Wake County Schools (85 new certifications)
- 4th – Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (59)
- 17th – Guilford County Schools (tie, with 16)
- 17th – Pitt County Schools (tie, with 16)
- 21st – New Hanover County Schools (tie, with 14)
- 21st – Union County Public Schools (tie, with 14)

Nationally, a total of 130,493 teachers have earned board certification, with North Carolina accounting for nearly 18 percent of all nationally certified teachers.



New Staff



(LEFT): **Garrett Reading** is the new digital communications coordinator in the Communications Department. [Click here](#) to read more about Garrett.

(RIGHT): **Carson Pfingston** is the new deputy director of Community and Political Organizing in the Government Relations Department. Find out more about Carson by [clicking here](#).





OPERATION COOPERATION 2023

This year, NCAE is partnering with Greensboro's BackPack Beginnings for our Operation Cooperation service project. We ask delegates to purchase the following items and bring them to the NCAE Convention.



BackPack
BEGINNINGS

Items to donate:



Soap,
Shampoo,
Deodorant,
Lotion



Canned
vegetables,
canned fruit,
individual packs
of oatmeal,
canned chicken,
pasta/rice



Important Information About Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Student Loan Scams

Below is important information from the N.C. Department of Justice Attorney General's Office regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (PSLF) and how to prevent being a victim of a student loan scam.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program forgives the remaining balance on federal direct student loans following 120 months of qualifying payments for certain public service employees. More information on PSLF is available at [Public Service Loan Forgiveness | Federal Student Aid](#).

Please note that the North Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR) has issued an Important Notice regarding the State Tax Treatment of Federal Student Loan Forgiveness, which is available [here](#).

According to the Important Notice, while certain forms of federal student loan forgiveness are considered taxable income in North Carolina, student loan forgiveness under PSLF is not considered North Carolina taxable income. Specifically, footnote 8 of the Important Notice notes that for student loan forgiveness excluded under certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code – including Public Service Loan Forgiveness under Section 108(f)(1) – “individuals are not required to add back the amount of forgiveness excluded under these Code sections when determining North Carolina taxable income” (emphasis added).

STUDENT LOAN SCAMS



With the continuing developments on the federal student loan front, borrowers may be experiencing confusion and uncertainty. Unfortunately, scammers thrive in these conditions, so borrowers must be especially alert. Attorney General Josh Stein wants to be sure that North Carolinians have the information they need to avoid scammers and know what to do should they fall victim to a scam.

- Never pay upfront fees to access help with your debt. Free assistance is available through your federal loan servicer. You can find out who services your loans on your [Federal Student Aid](#) account.
- Don't trust anyone pressuring you to decide quickly or if they promise instant debt relief. No company can help you speed up the federal government's student loan relief

process, and legitimate companies will not use aggressive tactics to pressure you into a contract.

- Be skeptical of anyone who contacts you and claims to represent the Department of Education or your loan servicer. Never give any personal or financial information to someone who contacts you if you aren't sure of their authenticity. If you have any concerns, contact the [Department of Education](#) or your loan servicer directly.

For more information, visit the NC Department of Justice's website at ncdoj.gov/studentloanscams. If you believe you have been the victim of a scam, contact the office's Consumer Protection Division at <https://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint> or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

Teacher Appreciation Night #3

Rockets vs HORNETS
Friday, April 7th
Tipoff at 7:00pm



Welcome all teachers as the Charlotte Hornets take on the **Houston Rockets on April 7th**. Exclusive discounted tickets for all teachers and their families as well as VIP access to the pre-game fan experience! **Tickets must be purchased through this link in order to have access to the special fan experience.**

- ✓ VIP Access to watch pregame shootaround a few rows from the court! You will receive more information closer to the event!

A PORTION OF ALL TICKETS SOLD WILL BENEFIT THE NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN.

To purchase tickets, please copy and paste this link into your browser.

Hornetstix.com/TeacherApp

Tickets as low as \$19

Purchase tickets today to be able to exclusively be able to participate in the pregame experience!



For more information or to purchase tickets contact:
 Dan Loskowitz at 704.688.9053 or dloskowitz@hornets.com
 Fax: 704.688.8735



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- Easy retirement planning
- Shopping and travel deals

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nea Member Benefits

CO360323

Today's women by the numbers



Women control **one third** of total U.S. household financial assets – more than **\$10 TRILLION**.¹



In 2022, women controlled **33%** of total U.S. household financial assets.²



An unprecedented amount of assets will shift into the hands of U.S. women over the next **three to five years**, representing a **\$30 TRILLION** opportunity by the end of the decade.¹

95%

According to Forbes Community Voice, **OF U.S. WOMEN** are either solely or jointly responsible for household decisions.



With more women than ever responsible for their financial well-being – and the financial well-being of their families – it's critical that women know how to save and plan for their future.

Contact your local **Horace Mann representative** to learn more on how to empower your future through financial education.



CLICK HERE to find your Horace Mann agent

1. McKenzie & Company, Women as the next wave of wealth in U.S. wealth management, July 29, 2021. Forbes Community Voice, Five Reasons Women are Taking the Lead in Financial Planning, Aug. 2017
 2. "Money decisions by women will shape the future of the U.S.," CNBC.com, May 2022

The information provided here is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered a recommendation, investment, tax or legal advice.



HOT DEALS

NEA Discount Marketplace

The NEA Discount Marketplace, powered by Rakuten, enables members to earn cash back when they shop and save on brand-name merchandise from over 3,500 top retailers and online stores. Check out the following member-exclusive deals in March 2023 at [neamb.com/marketplace](https://www.neamb.com/marketplace):

- **H&R Block** — With H&R Block’s DIY tax software, you can complete your taxes at your own pace. Pick the plan that meets your needs and get started today. Plus, members earn extra cash back!
- **TurboTax** — Get your taxes done right and your maximum refund guaranteed with TurboTax. Get free live help from tax experts, including a final review before you file. Members earn extra cash back!
- **Shiseido** — Feel your best with Shiseido! Members receive extra cash back, plus freebies and special deals.
- **JCPenney** — Explore great deals on the essentials for your home at JCPenney. Check out the latest sales plus earn extra cash back as a member.
- **PetSmart** — Pamper your pet with food, treats, toys, and accessories from PetSmart! Members earn extra cash back.

NEA Travel Dollars

Ready to get away? Use your Travel Dollars to save on car rentals, hotels, and more. Enroll now and earn \$500 Travel Dollars! Visit <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-travel-dollars> to find out how.

NEA Travel and Vacations

Start planning your next great adventure! Browse destination ideas and find money-saving tips from NEA Member Benefits. To start exploring, visit <https://www.neamb.com/travel-and-vacations>.

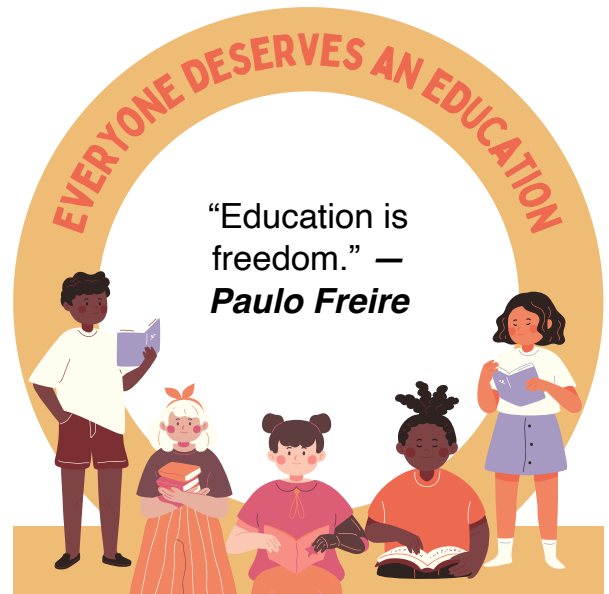
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Dates to Remember

March

- 8th Day for Women's Rights & International Peace International Women's Day: [Link](#)
- 12th Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 14th International Ask a Question Day
- 17th St. Patrick's Day
- 20th International Day of Happiness: [Link](#)
First Day of Spring
- 21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: [Link](#)
Expanding Girls' Horizons in Science & Engineering Month: [Link](#)
Music In Our Schools Month: [Link](#)
National March Into Literacy Month
National Women's History Month



NCAE NEWS

Positions stated in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official position of NCAE unless so identified. The *NCAE News Bulletin*, a journal of the Association, is published by the North Carolina Association of Educators, 3700 Glenwood Ave., Suite 510, Raleigh, NC 27612, 1-800-662-7924.

Linda Powell, *Editor/Designer*



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www.ncae.org