Stewart is Regional Teacher of the Year!

Kedecia Stewart, who teaches at Pinkston Street Elementary School and is the current Vance County Teacher of the Year, has been named the North Central Region Teacher of the Year for 2018.

Stewart is shown in the photo at left as she is surprised by the announcement during an assembly on November 21, at her school.

She was selected for the regional honor from among a field of 13 other teachers representing school systems including Wake, Durham, Johnston, Franklin, Granville and Warren counties. She now goes on to compete as the region’s representative for 2018 N.C. Teacher of the Year.

Lisa Godwin of Onslow County Schools and the 2017 N.C. Teacher of the Year, attended the Pinkston Street assembly to make the announcement about Stewart’s regional honor. Superintendent Anthony Jackson also was on hand and presented Stewart with a plaque and bouquet of roses from the school district.

Dr. Jackson earns prestigious Friday Medal

Dr. Anthony Jackson, superintendent of Vance County Schools, received the prestigious Friday Medal during a ceremony at the Friday Institute on the Centennial Campus of N.C. State University in Raleigh on November 15.

Jackson was presented the award in recognition of his outstanding leadership in implementing effective use of technology into teaching and learning each day in the classrooms of our 17 public schools.

The Friday Medal honors significant, distinguished and enduring contributions to education and beyond through advocating innovation, advancing education and imparting inspiration. In recognition of the commitment of Bill and Ida Friday to educational excellence, the College of Education’s William & Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation created The Friday Medal. This award is given annually to those who embody the mission and spirit of the Friday Institute.

In collaboration with the N.C. School Superintendents Association, the 2017 Friday Medal was presented to Jackson and six other superintendents. They each received a medal for their own accomplishments and as representatives of the many other dedicated and innovative rural superintendents who serve the students of North Carolina.
Members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Nu Chi Omega chapter are shown at right as they hold some of the 150 backpacks filled with school supplies they donated for needly children in local schools. They presented the backpacks on November 16 to Superintendent Anthony Jackson. Joining Dr. Jackson in the photo are, from left, Patricia Williams, Vivian Bullock, Sarah Baskerville, Nakeshia Rolle and Carol Simmons.

Local board of education earns Master Board status

The Vance County Board of Education was recognized during the N.C. School Boards Association’s (NCSBA) 2017 Annual Conference in Greensboro on November 14, as a Level I Master Board.

It was the only board recognized at the conference for the Level I achievement.

Master Board is a knowledge and skills based training program that provides school boards with the opportunity to develop governance skills as a full board. All board members and the superintendent must commit to the training.

The Master Board Level I distinction requires 20 hours of training. Topics covered in the training include understanding school boards in a democracy, solving problems and making decisions and analyzing ethical challenges.

Greg Hicks was the trainer for the local board.
Vanceformation awards honor outstanding efforts

The first Vanceformation awards event for this school year was held on November 2, to honor 17 outstanding associates with Vance County Schools.

Each of the honorees was treated to a nice breakfast at the Golden Corral in Henderson. Colleagues also were on hand to recognize each associate. District administrative leaders presented each with a Vanceformation lapel pin.

**Below at top:** Paula Bonner-Davis of Henderson Middle, second from right, was honored.

**Below at bottom:** Dr. Bami Caulter of AdVance Academy, center, was honored by Principal Stephanie Ayscue, second from right.

**Above top:** Rebecca Bolton of Aycock Elementary, center, honored by Principal Kristen Boyd, second from right.

**Above middle:** Betsy Ellis of Dabney Elementary, second from right, honored by Lisa Rotolo, center.

**Above bottom:** Marian Faulkner of Zeb Vance Elementary, center, honored by Principal Kristian Herring, second from right. In each photo are, from left, Jennifer Bennett, assistant superintendent; Superintendent Anthony Jackson; and Dr. Cindy Bennett, assistant superintendent.
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Right top: Leann Harrell of Southern Vance High, center, honored by Trevei Foreman, far left, and Principal Rey Horner, second from right.

Right second from top: Lillian King of Carver Elementary, second from right, honored by Teresa Hicks, second from left, and Principal David Westbrook, right.

Right third from top: Hazel Henry of Eaton-Johnson Middle, second from right, honored by Diana McCann, PowerSchool coordinator, second from left, and Principal Travis Taylor, right.

Right bottom: Christi Welch of E.O. Young Jr. Elementary, second from left, honored by Cheri Baker, second from right, and Principal Marylaura McKoon, right.

Left top: Brenda Cobbins of E.M. Rollins Elementary, center, honored by Principal Stephanie Alston, right.

Left bottom: Connie Krupa of Clarke Elementary, second from right, honored by Principal Crystal Richardson, left, and Pamela Perry, right.

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**Right top:** Deris Mora of Henderson Middle, right, honored by Jose Martinez, center.  
**Right middle:** Nadine White of School Nutrition, center, honored by Phyllis Newcomb, director of School Nutrition, right.  
**Right bottom:** Shelton Anderson of the Technology Department, center, honored by Celeste Wilkerson, right.  
**Left top:** Claudette Scales, pre-kindergarten coordinator, second from right, honored by Dr. Gloria Jones, director of Department of Exceptional Children, right.  
**Left bottom:** Danilo Morales of Early College High, standing at center, honored by Principal Debbie Hite, second from left, and shown with some of his students.  
   Silka Boone, purchasing coordinator in the Finance Department, also was honored, but could not attend.
Carver receives $3,000 grant

Diane Averett, media specialist at Carver Elementary School, has purchased 165 new books for beginning readers with $3,000 in grant funds from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. First-grade students at Carver are shown at right as they hold some of their new books.

Pinkston Street honors veterans

Over 50 military veterans attended Pinkston Street Elementary School’s 10th annual Veteran’s Day Celebration held at the school on November 8. Students and teachers welcomed the veterans who enjoyed a nice lunch and music by student groups. Members of the Junior Air Force ROTC at Northern Vance High School also entertained the veterans with their precision drills.

Expo focuses on careers

E.M. Rollins Elementary School students benefited from opportunities to talk with representatives of a variety of careers during the school’s annual Career Expo held on October 31.

Students in grades 3-5 were able to visit at information booths with the business representatives during the afternoon in the school’s multipurpose room. They asked lots of questions and received valuable information from representatives in the fields of pharmacy services, cosmetology, law enforcement, plumbing, firefighting, visual art, real estate sales and more.
Two star student athletes

Tre’John Dailey, left in photo at right, and William Hawkins IV are the first middle school students from Vance County to be selected to play in the prestigious Shrine Bowl All-Star football game.

Dailey and Hawkins are eighth graders at the STEM Early High School and played football this season at Eaton-Johnson Middle School.

They will play for the 49-player N.C. Shrine Bowl team against middle school student athletes on the S.C. Shrine Bowl team on December 16, at Kenan Stadium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dailey is a standout lineman on defense and offense. Hawkins is a standout wide receiver on offense and safety on defense. They are both also outstanding students in the classroom.

Both say they are looking forward to this great opportunity.

Bullock stresses ‘big picture’

Randall Q. Bullock, a Vance County native now living in New Jersey and mentoring young men, spoke to male students in the school system’s Youth Empowerment Academy on November 3.

He talked with the six students, who attend the academy due to being placed on long-term suspension from their middle schools, about their focus on the important things in life and about making good decisions.

“Look at the macro, your big picture in your life and where you want to go,” Bullock, shown at right, said. “You can also look at the micro, which is what you want to do right now.”

He emphasized to the students that they need to make good decisions now and work to get back on track with their school work and their behavior.

Bullock also talked about his own experience growing up in Henderson and playing football, which led him to being a wide receiver on the football team at the University of Virginia.

“I could have worked harder and done more,” he said. “You can always do more.”
Clarke hosts its anti-bullying parade

Clarke Elementary School hosted its annual Anti-Bullying Parade on October 27, during the local observance of Red Ribbon Week.

Students and teachers are shown at left filing out of the school’s front entrance as they began the parade and carried banners and signs.

Clarke joined several local schools in observing the special week, October 23-27, with a variety of activities and events to show students how to respect one another and others.

Students and staff across the district also wore orange on October 25 to mark “Unity Day.”

VCAE holds special event

The Vance County Association of Educators (VCAE) chapter of the N.C. Association of Educators hosted a special “meet-and-greet” event after the start of the new school year.

Superintendent Anthony Jackson was a special guest.

Officials attending the VCAE event are shown in the above photo. They include, from left, Tyrone Melton, Uni Serv director; Johnny Bullock, retired member; Thomas Williams, director; Kevin Smith, communications vice president; Superintendent Anthony Jackson; Barbara Davis, treasurer; Razvan Tegean, support vice president; and Jameel Williams, president.