



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tupelo Public School District (@TupeloSchools)

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Enis, Tally Finalists For MDE Awards

TUPELO, Miss. — One is nice. Two is even better.

Wednesday afternoon, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced Mark Enis and Leslie Tally are finalists for the 2021 Administrator and Teacher of the Year honors, representing Congressional District 1.

Enis is in his second year as principal at Tupelo Middle School, while Tally is in her second year at Lawhon.

National Board Certified and also a Teacher of Distinction recipient, Tally began her professional journey in 2011 teaching 3rd grade at Lawndale. Two years ago as a 2nd-grade teacher at Mooreville Elementary, she was tabbed the Lee County Schools Teacher of the Year.

“I am completely overwhelmed and grateful for this opportunity,” she said. “Regardless of the outcome as we move forward, I feel blessed to have received this nomination and to be able to represent the Tupelo Public School District. This is truly a high honor.”

Enis, a 1992 graduate of Tupelo High School, has spent the past 22 years at TPSD in various capacities. In addition to coaching soccer, golf and baseball, he also served one year as assistant principal at both the high school and Lawndale. Prior to his arrival at TMS, he spent two years as principal at Lawhon, leading the school to an A-ranking. He owns three degrees from William Carey College, including his master’s.

“I am honored and humbled,” he said. “However, this isn’t an honor for just one person. It’s representative of all the schools I’ve worked. I’m blessed to work with the best.”

MDE will announce the winners virtually on April 29. Winners in each category will receive \$5,000. The winning administrator will share their expertise through various presentations, professional development and activities for the improvement of education in the state. The winning teacher will represent Mississippi in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Administrator Finalists

District 1: Mark Enis, Tupelo Middle

District 2: LaMarlon Wilson, O.M. McNair Middle

District 3: Alicia Conerly, Monticello Elementary

District 4: Mandy Lacy, DeLisle Elementary

Teacher Finalists

District 1: Leslie Tally, Lawhon

District 2: Jason Provine, O’Bannon High School

District 3: Janna Paes, Starkville High School

District 4: Mason Smith, Lumberton High School