



Stafford, Barber Receive Mississippi Art Honors

TUPELO, Miss. — Kit Stafford, Debbie Long and Caren Barber received three of the highest honors awarded by the Mississippi Art Education Association on Wednesday.

Stafford, the Tupelo Public School District Fine Arts and Grant Director, was named the 2023 MAEA Supervisor of the Year, while Long, an art teacher at Tupelo High School, was tabbed the secondary Art Educator of the Year. Caren Barber, an art teacher at Rankin, was named the elementary Art Educator of the Year.

They were recognized in Jackson early this month for their achievements.

“These are the top honors presented by our membership each year,” President Renna Moore-Edwards said. “These awards recognize outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of art education in our state. They both exemplify the highly qualified art educators working in Mississippi.”

Founded in 1938, MAEA is an organization of art educators who are passionate in their commitment to the necessity of art in developing creative processes that benefit all students. MAEA provides the tools to implement this by keeping teachers on the cutting edge of art education.

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