The Barry Gaskins Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to School Public Relations

This prestigious award from the North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPRA) annually recognizes a practicing or retired school public relations professional for outstanding leadership in school public relations and communications.

The award is named for Barry Gaskins, APR, who passed away unexpectedly in March 2003 at the age of 49. During his 24-year career as the first public information officer for Pitt County Schools in Greenville, North Carolina, Barry gained a national reputation for his skill as a school PR professional and his ability to engage diverse publics in support of public education. He served as president of NCSPRA in 1986-1987 and later in various roles as state coordinator and governmental liaison. He also served as Southeast Region Vice President of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), 1996-1999, and president of NSPRA, 2001-2002. Barry was known for his passion for school public relations and deep commitment to the advancement of public education. His leadership, vision and guidance on the NCSPRA Board greatly contributed to the chapter earning the coveted Blue Ribbon Chapter Award from NSPRA for 27 years. Barry was devoted to NCSPRA and NSPRA and spent much of his time supporting the professional development of his colleagues and serving as a mentor and friend to his "NCSPRA family."

Past recipients of this award are:

2003
- Barry Gaskins, Pitt County Schools (Posthumously)

2003-2004
- Bonnie Reidy, Gaston County Schools

2004-2005
- Ann Wilkerson, Orange County Schools

2005-2006
- Bob Kendall, Wilson County Schools

2006-2007
- Kay Williams, Durham Public Schools

2007-2008
- Sue Carson, Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co. Schools

2008-2009
- Luan Ingram, Union County Public Schools

2009-2010
- Kirk Puckett, Alamance-Burlington School System

2010-2011
- Lela Chesson, Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools

2011-2012
- Kathy Newbern, Wake County Public School System

2012-2013
- Shirley Carraway, Orange County Schools

2013-2014
- Kim Hoke, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

2014-2015
- Pete Andrews, Onslow County Schools

2015-2016
- Tim Lussier, Moore County Schools

2016-2017
- Vanessa Jeter, N.C. Department of Public Instruction

2017-2018
- Nora Carr, Guilford County Schools

North Carolina School Public Relations Association