



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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Clayton County Public Schools Celebrates 2025 Employees of the Year at “The Legacy of Excellence” Gala

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) hosted its 2025 Employee of the Year gala, themed "The Legacy of Excellence," on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Morrow Center. Nearly seven hundred employees, family members, and friends gathered for an evening dedicated to celebrating the exceptional Teachers of the Year from each school and program and to recognizing the district's Employee of the Year finalists.

The ceremony opened with a welcoming reception featuring soft jazz by Mount Zion High School while guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and photo opportunities. A stirring Presentation of Colors and the National Anthem by the Morrow High School JROTC and the CCPS Choir formally commenced the program. Superintendent Dr. Anthony W. Smith delivered heartfelt opening remarks that set an uplifting tone for the evening.

“This celebration reflected the extraordinary dedication and talent of our educators and staff who inspire students every day,” said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “Their commitment to excellence shapes the future of Clayton County Public Schools and ensures that we continue building a better tomorrow, today.”

Awards were presented across multiple categories by previous honorees, including LaDonne Elliott (2024–2025 Support Leader of the Year – Certified), Brandis Rencher (2023–2024 Support Professional – Classified), Cheri Ann Taylor (2024–2025 Support Leader – Classified), Charles White (2024–2025 Support Professional – Classified), Marcia Payton (2023–2024 Principal of the Year), and Ramielle Moorer (2024–2025 District Teacher of the Year).

This year's distinguished honorees are announced as follows:

- ❖ Principal of the Year: Kimberlee Barnett – Jonesboro Middle School
- ❖ Support Leader of the Year (Certified): Dr. Sonja Bennings – Sequoyah Middle School
- ❖ Support Professional of the Year (Certified): Natilia Hendrix – North Clayton High School
- ❖ Support Leader (Classified): Jada Dawkins – Division of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing
- ❖ Support Professional (Classified): Gabysol Quiroz – Fountain Elementary
- ❖ District Teacher of the Year: Miranda Scott – Charles R. Drew High School

In addition to these recognitions, Georgia United and Herff Jones presented special awards to the honorees, and Georgia's Own generously provided gifts to all recipients as tokens of appreciation, joined by other sponsoring partners.

The evening concluded with closing remarks from Dr. April Crawford, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services, who expressed sincere gratitude to everyone whose efforts made the celebration a memorable success.

Thank you to all who continue to support and advance excellence in education while building a better tomorrow, today.

To view images of the 2025 Employee of the Year Gala, please [click here](#).

To view the full length 2025 Employee of the Year Gala, please [click here](#).



-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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