

2026 May Board Highlights



First Place: Sophia, Brinson Memorial Elementary



Runner Up: Harper, Roger Bell New Tech Academy

AMERICA 250 NC COUNTY FLAG CHALLENGE WINNING ENTRIES

On May 19, 2026, the Board of Education held their May Board Meeting at the Grover C. Fields Middle School Performing Arts Center.

It was a night full of celebrations, recognitions, and appreciation of our staff, students, and community partners.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Community Recognitions: Grant Recipients

Successful Students: Student Recognitions

Premier Professionals: Staff Recognitions

Community Recognitions



Partners In Education-PIE Grant Recipients

The Board of Education is proud to recognize this year's PIE Grant recipients, whose innovative ideas and dedication to student learning continue to enrich our schools. These grants are made possible by the generous support of our community, specifically through PIE membership dues, ongoing fundraising efforts, and contributions from individuals and local businesses. Together, these investments help bring creative, impactful educational opportunities to life for our students. Across both the fall and spring grant cycles, a total of \$34,348.28 in PIE grant funding was awarded.

Fall & Spring PIE Grant Winners

- Ron Brewer, West Craven High (2)
- Lydia LoScalzo & Jason Philipps, H.J. MacDonald Middle
- Kristy Williamson, Creekside Elementary (2)
- Kim Scott, J.T. Barber Elementary
- Kaitlyn Watson (2) & Ashley Etheredge, Grover C. Fields Middle
- Matthew Bowman & Ashley Etheredge, Grover C. Fields Middle
- Jake Cuba, Roger Bell New Tech Academy
- Cannon Carpenter, Savanna Lawrence, & Rachel Meyers, Speech Pathologists
- Laurie Pepper, Bridgeton Elementary
- Julie Harper, Havelock High
- Amanda Barto, Havelock High
- Amber Harr, J.T. Barber Elementary
- Kelly Leonhardt-Griffin, Havelock Middle (2)
- Maggie Jackson, Grover C. Fields Middle (2)
- Hailey Hardee, Lindsay Klein, Tiffani Ragle, Roger Bell New Tech Academy
- Lauren Dugan, Graham A. Barden Elementary
- Mona Baldauf, Roger Bell New Tech Academy
- Heather Santos, Arthur W. Edwards Elementary (2)
- Octavius Johnson, New Bern High
- Jeanna Austin, Havelock Middle
- Sheri-Lynne Santos Estes, New Bern High
- Rachel Price, Grover C. Fields Middle
- Rosemary Steinman, Tucker Creek Middle

Thank you to Partners In Education for your support of our Educators!

Community Recognitions Cont.



Bate Foundation Individual School Grant Recipients

The Board of Education also extends its sincere appreciation to the Harold H. Bate Foundation, a valued partner of PIE, for its continued commitment to supporting our schools. This year, the Foundation generously awarded a total of \$35,000 in grant funding to individual schools eligible to apply for up to \$5,000 each to support targeted initiatives that meet their unique needs. In addition, the Foundation contributes \$30,000 annually to sustain the Beginning Teacher Store, ensuring that new educators have access to essential classroom resources. We are pleased to recognize the principals and educators who successfully secured these competitive grants for their schools.

- Melisa Thompson, Cherita Lassiter, & Heather Santos, Arthur W. Edwards Elementary
- Ashley Faulkenberry, Creekside Elementary
- Kaitlyn Watson, Grover C. Fields Middle
- Claudia E. Casey, Tameka Wiggins, & Anna Spear; Havelock High
- Mike Swain, Jason Philipps, & Lydia LoScalzo, H.J. MacDonald Middle
- Derrell Ward & Ashley Fillingame, James W. Smith Elementary,
- Roneca Wallace, J.T. Barber Elementary
- Darryl Thomas & Luke Hancock, New Bern High School
- Stephen Currie, Tucker Creek Middle

Thank you to the Bate Foundation and Partners In Education for your continued support of our schools throughout the district.

Successful Students



North Carolina Governor's School

North Carolina Governor's School, the oldest statewide summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students in the nation, is a four-week program that integrates academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses across two campuses. The Governor's School emphasizes collaborative efforts across all disciplines, and learning focuses on exploring the latest ideas and concepts in each discipline. Students are selected to attend through a competitive process after being nominated by their public school unit or non-public school. The program is administered by the State Board of Education and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) through the Office of Advanced Learning & Gifted Education.

We celebrate our students for this prestigious honor as North Carolina's most gifted and talented rising high school students who will have an opportunity to explore cutting-edge ideas and concepts in academics and the arts. Congratulations to our eight students who have been selected to participate:

- Emani Clark - Visual Art - New Bern High School
- Kinley Duffin - Social Science - Havelock High School
- Elexis Elder - English - Havelock High School
- Valerie Lawhorn - Social Science - New Bern High School
- Kathleen Oleneack - Choral Music Alto 2 - New Bern High School
- Abigale Poindexter, - Instrumental Music: Clarinet - New Bern High School
- Elijah Smallwood - Social Science - West Craven High School
- Edwin Zhao - Mathematics - New Bern High School

NC Nominee for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program - General Education

Craven County Schools proudly celebrates **Reese Marie Castecka** of Havelock High School for being selected as a North Carolina nominee for the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. We are incredibly proud of Reese for this remarkable accomplishment and for representing Havelock High School and Craven County Schools with excellence. Congratulations to Reese. We wish her continued success in the Presidential Scholars selection process!

Successful Students Cont.

Battle of the Books

We celebrate our High School and Middle School Battle of the Books Winners. Students read books from a list established by the state Battle of the Books committee, so they were prepared to compete in a quiz-bowl-style tournament to test their knowledge of the books. The students from Havelock High School and H.J. MacDonald Middle School represented Craven County with enthusiasm and grace. Thank you to their coaches, Kaye Nesbit and Connie Wolf, and all the families for their encouragement and for instilling the love of reading!

Congratulations to the first-place teams:

HJ MacDonald Middle School

Coach: Connie Wolf

Team:

- Violet Bennett
- Arian Caputolan
- Serenity Carroll
- Layla Dansby
- Sincere Howard
- Avery Maheu
- Irfana Misha
- Lucy Parmenter
- Grace Thang
- Hillary Thein
- Kaiya Wilson
- Elena Wright



Havelock High School

Coach: Kaye Nesbit

Team:

- Maura Griffie
- Nathaniel Babauta
- Colleen Taylor
- Julianna Vasquez
- Jennifer Garst-Yeager
- Nyliah Frazier
- Syesha Dennard



North Carolina Senior Beta State Convention

New Bern High School students competed at the 2025 North Carolina Senior Beta State Convention. Congratulations to the following students on their amazing accomplishments:

- Maggie Harris - 2nd Place - 11th Grade Agriscience
- Lauren Simmons - 3rd Place - 12th Grade Science

Successful Students Cont.



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Students from Havelock High School's FBLA chapter competed at the North Carolina Regional Leadership Conference in November 2025.

This year's Regional Conference winners are:

- Aiden Perry - 1st Place - Advanced Accounting
- Jamie Hill - 3rd Place - Accounting 1
- Syesha Dennard - 3rd Place - Business Communications
- Tom Le - 2nd Place - Computer Applications
- Nathaniel Babauta - 2nd Place - Future Business Leader
- Wyatt Deuvall, Kaleb Gayle & Logan Rolsten - 3rd Place Team - Introduction to Business Presentation
- Aarya Patel - 1st Place - Introduction to Business Procedures
- Todd Le - 2nd Place - Introduction to Information Technology
- Shemar Latimore - 3rd Place - Networking Infrastructures
- Angelina Sanchez-Yu Lee - 1st Place - Public Speaking
- EllieAnna Campbell, Nayeli Ochoa & Lauren Viviano - 2nd Place Team - Spirit-Tee Shirt Design
- Janessa Mojado, Ayla Hand, & Brielle Hand - 2nd Place Team - Spirit-Theme & Web Banner
- Madison Kerntke, Hailey Devor & Ishajaleah Thomas - 3rd Place Team - Spirit-FBLA Pin Design

Successful Students Cont.



The North Carolina Technology Student Association (NC TSA)

NC TSA is a statewide student organization that engages middle and high school students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) through competitive events, leadership development, and hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for careers in technology and engineering. Tucker Creek Middle School and Early College EAST students competed at the State TSA Conference in April.

Congratulations to the following students:

- CJ Greene, BK Thompson, Travis Elder, Drake Kinney, Maddy Ward, Sarah VanOver - 1st Place - Chapter Team
- Sarah VanOver - 2nd Place: Digital Photography
- Warren Thompson - 3rd Place: Digital Photography
- BK Thompson 2nd Place: Flight
- Drake Kinney 3rd Place: Flight
- Manny George, Nathan Fontaine, Jace Askew - 2nd Place Team: Mechanical Engineering
- CJ Greene & Drake Kinney - 1st Place Team: Off the Grid
- Jace Askew & Timothy Macleod - 2nd Place Team: Problem Solving

Congratulations to the Tucker Creek Middle TSA 1st-place winners, who will be headed to Washington, DC, in June for the National TSA Conference.

Early College EAST TSA Winners: Video Game Design: 3rd place team:

- Courtney Anderson
- Tyler Brothers
- Jonathan Whalen
- Adrian Scotten-White

SkillsUSA North Carolina

SkillsUSA North Carolina is a statewide career and technical student organization that empowers middle, high school, and postsecondary students to develop technical, leadership, and employability skills through hands-on training, competitions, and real-world experiences aligned to workforce needs. Havelock High School's SkillsUSA members attended the SkillsUSA State Conference in April. Congratulations to this year's winners from Havelock High School:

- **Sophia Beyer** 2nd place: Early Childhood
- **Max Buchheim** 3rd place: Automotive Services Technology

Successful Students Cont.



Young Authors

Young Authors is an art and writing contest sponsored by the Twin Rivers Reading Council and the NC Reading Association for students in grades K-12. State and local winners receive recognition and a published book with all the winning entries. The theme for the 2025-2026 Young Authors' Project was "Educate, Advocate, and Empower." Young authors were encouraged to share their own special stories. It could have been about the impact of a special experience, moment, story, or person in their life, and how that has impacted the way they see themselves. Authors were allowed to write prose or poetry, fiction or nonfiction.

We would like to congratulate the following winners:

- Quinn Rea - Arthur W. Edwards Elementary
- Mariann Cuellar Lugo - A. H. Bangert Elementary
- Henry "Hank" McCollum - A. H. Bangert Elementary
- Quinn Williams - A. H. Bangert Elementary
- Emma Shearman - Brinson Memorial Elementary
- Jordyn Randall - Craven Early College
- Lorelei Smith - Craven Early College
- Charlotte Howland - Creekside Elementary
- Hannah Jerome - Creekside Elementary
- Sylis Phillips- Graham A. Barden Elementary
- Alana Spriggs - Oaks Road Academy
- Preeya Goode - Roger Bell New Tech Academy
- Elias Parker - Tucker Creek Middle
- Nola Terrell - Tucker Creek Middle
- Dominic McEvoy - Tucker Creek Middle
- Benders Golden - Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary
- Ja'Nae Adams - Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary
- Elyssa Barrow - Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary
- Clara Lewis - W. J. Gurganus Elementary
- Hallee Witte - W. J. Gurganus Elementary
- Naomi Castaneda - W. J. Gurganus Elementary
- Kirra Peek - Havelock High School (Art)
- Kaidence Hays - Havelock High School (Art)
- Matther Young - Havelock High School (Art)

Successful Students Cont.



America 250 NC County Flag Challenge

Students from Trent Park Elementary, Brinson Memorial Elementary, and Roger Bell New Tech Academy recently earned top honors in the America 250 NC County Flag Challenge, a statewide initiative encouraging fourth-grade students to design a flag that represents their county's history, culture, and identity.

The challenge, created by America 250 NC, invited fourth-grade students from across North Carolina to create original county flag designs that reflect how they see and experience their local communities. The program aims to help students think critically about local history, geography, and culture while connecting classroom learning to the upcoming 250th anniversary of the United States. We celebrate:

- **Sophia Lease**, a fourth-grade student from Brinson Memorial Elementary School, earned first place in the Craven County competition. Her design stood out for its creativity and meaningful representation of the community.
- **Harper Salmons**, a student from Roger Bell New Tech Academy, was named runner-up, impressing judges with a thoughtful, creative flag design that captured the spirit of Craven County.

2026 Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship

To compete in the 2026 Microsoft Office Specialist Spring Qualifier, students aged 13 to 22 were eligible to participate in one of six competition tracks by submitting a qualified, passing score on the MOS Word, Excel®, or PowerPoint® certification exams. Winning 3rd place in the Microsoft Excel (Office 2019) category is:

- **Henry Rhodes**, 10th grader from New Bern High School. Henry competed against students from across the state to earn this coveted placement.

NC Art Education Association General Assembly Art Show:

The North Carolina General Assembly Youth Art Exhibit is cosponsored by the North Carolina Art Education Association and North Carolina General Assembly. The purpose of the exhibit is to share with our legislators and the public the exceptional creative ability of North Carolina's students.

Selected artworks are displayed in the north lobby of the Legislative Building for a year-long exhibit! Artwork from New Bern High School Senior, **Morgan Johnson** was selected to be displayed during this year's art exhibit.

Successful Students Cont.



Honors Band

Students who placed at the top of their Eastern All-District Band were able to audition for the All-State Honors Band. This is the highest honor a student musician can earn in North Carolina! Congratulations to these phenomenal students, and a special thank you to their Band Directors. The following students earned seats:

- David Ezzell - All-State Senior HS Concert Band - New Bern High
- Madison Game - All-State HS Jazz Band - New Bern High
- Zoe Puff - All State Band Clinic - Tucker Creek Middle



Honors Chorus

The Board of Education is proud to recognize the following students who were selected to participate in the North Carolina Honors Chorus. This is the highest honor a choral music student can receive in North Carolina. Congratulations:

- Martin Ward - NC All-State Honors Chorus - New Bern High
- Alison Hegler - Honors Chorus - Tucker Creek Middle
- Chase Cabatit - Honors Chorus - Tucker Creek Middle



FFA Chapter Degree

The State FFA Degree is the highest honor an FFA member can receive at the high school level, and earning it is a tremendous achievement. We are incredibly proud to recognize two outstanding individuals who have reached this milestone:

Summer Clark and George Santiago Carerra.

Earning this degree is a testament to the immense hard work, grit, and long hours they have poured into their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). Summer and George didn't just meet the requirements; they went above and beyond. Through early mornings, late nights, and countless weekends, they managed their SAE projects with a level of responsibility, perseverance, and dedication that sets a gold standard for the entire program.

Summer and George, your blue jackets represent a legacy of hard work, and your State Degrees are proof of your unwavering commitment to agriculture, personal growth, and your community. We could not be prouder of the leaders you have become. Please join us in congratulating Summer and George on this phenomenal accomplishment!

Seeds of Art Poetry

The Seeds of Art poetry contest is a youth literary competition for middle and high school students in Craven County, hosted by local bookstore, The Next Chapter Books and Art. The top poems are published in the Seeds of Art Poetry Anthology.

Congratulations to **Gabriella Santos** from Havelock High School who recieved 1st Place in the contest.

Successful Students Cont.



Wrestling State Champions

The Board of Education celebrates this year's State Wrestling Champions:

- **Laila Tellez** from Havelock High School pinned her opponent from Parkwood in the first period to claim the State Championship at 152 lbs.
- **Abby Garcia** from Havelock High School earned 3rd place at 120 lbs.
- **Aiden Campbell** from Havelock High School claimed the 5A State Championship at 150 lb with a dominating win over his South Point opponent.
- **Claire Ballard** from New Bern High School is a 3rd year wrestler who finished the season with a 46-1 record. She is one of the women's captains for our team. Along with being the 2026 7A 126-pound state champion, she was also the Bog Carolina Conference female wrestler of the year.
- **Faith Bane** from New Bern High School is this year's winner of the North Carolina Tricia Saunders High School Excellence Award. The award recognizes and celebrates the nation's most outstanding high school senior female wrestlers for their excellence in wrestling, scholastic achievement, citizenship, and community service.

New Bern Men's Wrestling Program finished 2nd in the 7A Dual Team State Tournament

New Bern High School's Men's Wrestling program completed its dual season by finishing 2nd in Dual Team States. Their season record was 36-2. This season was unlike any other because the weather forced the state to wrestle the 3rd round, regional round, and state final round all in the same night! They lost to Davie County in the finals 40-30, but showed immense discipline and incredible character throughout the entire season. This was also a team with only one senior on varsity, so they are hungry to finish stronger next season! We recognize the 2025-26 Varsity Men's Wrestlers:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| • Caleb Dawson | • Carter Morse | • Connor Corby |
| • Xavier Bernthal | • Jason Rocham | • Amanuel Kahsai |
| • Derek Cullen | • Caiden Karl | • Ethan Smith |
| • Zareion Ebron-Berger | • Jacob Perry | • Jackson Dill |
| • Kade Pudwill | • Tanner Perry | • Hunter Lamm |
| • Landen Fox | • John Bane | • Cory Thomas |
| • Tripp Ellis | • Tillman Caskey | |
| • Peter Htoo | • Deion Metayer-Allaria | |

- **Xavier Bernthal** from New Bern High School is an experienced wrestler who finished the season with a 55-8 record. He was a large part of the success of our men's team finishing 2nd in the state. Xavier was the 106-pound 7A state champion.
- **John Bane** from New Bern High School was one of our men's team captains and was named the men's Big Carolina Conference wrestler of the year. He finished 3rd in the 7A State Tournament and finished the season with a 54-6 record.
- **Coy Deel** from West Craven High School finished the wrestling season with a 36-4 record. He was the Regional Champion and finished Runner-up in the 4a 138-pound state wrestling championships.



Purple Star Award

It is with great pride that we announce Craven County Schools has been recognized as a Military Purple Star District for the fifth year in a row. This prestigious award, given by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, acknowledges school districts that demonstrate an unwavering commitment to supporting military-connected students and their families. With over 3,000 military-connected students in our schools, we understand the unique challenges they face with frequent relocations, deployments, and transitions that can impact their educational experience. The Purple Star Award recognizes the work we do to provide stability, resources, and a welcoming community for these students.

To earn this designation, our district has implemented initiatives such as:

- Dedicated military point of contacts at each school to assist families with transitions.
- Staff training to better understand the social-emotional and academic needs of military children.
- Student-led transition groups like the Student to Student programs, which fosters peer connections.
- A strong partnership with MCAS Cherry Point, to ensure seamless communication.
- Resources and events designed to support and celebrate our military families year-round.

These initiatives, spearheaded by the Craven County Military Liaison Counselor, allow for our schools to provide an unwavering commitment to our military families. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to ensure that every military child in Craven County Schools receives the support, stability, resources, and quality education they deserve.

Thank you to our educators, administrators, and community partners who make this possible. Together, we are proud to be a Purple Star District! Thank you to **Mrs. Jodi Scoggins**, Craven County Schools' Military Liaison Counselor



Advanced Degrees

As a district, we believe that the professional growth of our employees is essential for performance excellence. Just as we celebrate the accomplishments of our student leaders in and out of the classroom, we also celebrate the achievements of our adult classroom leaders. Employees who earn advanced degrees demonstrate a commitment to the school district's vision. Completing a program of study reflects their desire to be involved in professional growth, increase their impact on student learning, and possibly assume positions as school leaders. This also applies to our teaching assistants who return to school, complete a degree, and obtain a teaching license.

We would like to recognize the following:

Name	School Site	Advanced Degree	Degree Area	University
Courtney Lester-Merkel	WJ Gurganus Elementary	Doctorate	Educational Leadership	East Carolina University
Ashley Etheredge	Grover C. Fields Middle School(NC	Masters	School Administration and Curriculum Instructional	East Carolina University
Jamara Wallace	New Bern High School	Masters	Master of Arts in Teaching	Chowan University
Ukelia Pearson	J.T. Barber Elementary School	Masters	Master of Arts in Teaching	Chowan University
Monica Isaacs	J.T. Barber Elementary School	Masters	Master of Arts in Elementary Education	Elizabeth City State University
Ashley Brewster	Trent Park Elementary/Bridget	Masters	Master of Arts in Art Education	East Carolina University
Rebecca Blackmon	J.T. Barber Elementary School	Masters	Master of Science in Counseling Education	East Carolina University
Tiana Greene	New Bern High School NC Principal	Masters	School Administration	East Carolina University
Brianna Erwin	New Bern High School	Masters	Education Reading and Literacy	East Carolina University

Premier Professionals Cont.



Advanced Degrees Continued

Name	School Site	Advanced Degree	Degree Area	University
John Scarfpin	Havelock High School	Doctorate	Technology Education	NC State
De'Yana Thomas	West Craven High School	Bachelor	Health Service Management	East Carolina University
Monkea Bryant	H.J. MacDonald Middle School	Masters	School Administration	Gardner-Webb University
Della Walley	H.J. MacDonald Middle School	Masters	School Administration	Gardner-Webb University
Emmie New	West Craven Middle School	Masters	Education with Reading and Literacy Instruction	East Carolina University
Majulee Edwards	West Craven Middle School	Masters	Master of Arts in Teaching	Fayetteville State University
Octavius Johnson	New Bern High School	Masters	School Administration	East Carolina University
Denise Mason	New Bern High School	Bachelor	University Studies (Thematic Core: Child Development and Family Support) minor Human Development and Family	East Carolina University
Katherine Carter	New Bern High School	Masters	Master in Agriculture Education	North Carolina A&T State University
Cameron Curlings	New Bern High School	Masters	Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary Education/CTE	University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Victoria Moody	West Craven High School	Doctorate	Sacred Studies with a Concentration in Marriage and Family Counseling	Christian Life School of Theology

Premier Professionals Cont.



National Board Certified Teachers

We each remember the great teachers who touched our lives, kindled our interests, and challenged us to do our best. Great teachers exhibit deep concern and love for children, and they convey a passion for the subjects they teach, captivating their students. These teachers approach their work with creativity and imagination, constantly striving to improve.

Created by educators and policymakers in 1987, National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A teacher-driven, voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. As a result of the National Board Certification process, teachers, like professionals in other fields, demonstrate that they meet the highest standards for their profession through a demanding performance assessment.

The Board of Education is proud to spotlight the following teachers who recently achieved this honor:

- April Mesa, Tucker Creek Middle -Career and Technical Education - Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood - Business and Financial, Marketing and Financial Services
- Vanessa Drasher - Brinson Memorial Elementary - Generalist-Middle Childhood
- Taylor Babson - Trent Park Elementary - Music- Early and Middle Childhood/Vocal
- Rachel Green- Ben D. Quinn Elementary - School Counseling - Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

Future-Ready Leadership

Future-Ready Leadership (FRL) is a leadership development program for practicing assistant principals. The program, provided by the NC Principals and Assistant Principals' Association, is aligned to the performance evaluation standards adopted by the State Board of Education for North Carolina's school leaders. Through this cohort-driven model, assistant principals will participate in six face-to-face sessions and engage in assignments, projects, and readings designed to build their schools' capacity and their own capacity as "Future-Ready" school leaders.

Congratulations to this year's cohort and participants who completed the program from our school district:

- Dequetta Cannon - Havelock Elementary School
- Lara Nobles - Ben D. Quinn Elementary
- Shannon Potter - Creekside Elementary
- Rachel Roccuzzo - James W. Smith Elementary



Premier Professionals Cont.



STAMPP

Supporting, Training and Mentoring Promising Principals is a professional development program designed to cultivate effective school leadership by providing tailored support to new and aspiring principals. Based on the provided search results, the initiative highlights the following components: mentorship and coaching, focus on key priorities, evaluation and growth, and comprehensive support. Congratulations to our school leaders who have committed time to professional growth and gained the knowledge to ensure their schools have effective leadership.

- Cordelia Breiner - West Craven Middle
- Cherita Lassiter - Arthur W. Edwards Elementary
- Rachel Roccuzzo - Jame W. Smith Elementary

NCCAT 2027 Burroughs Wellcome Fund NC Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year

The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Association for Career and Technical Education, developed the CTE Teacher of the Year award to honor remarkable CTE educators and emphasize the importance of CTE instruction in schools.

The Board of Education celebrates **Hope Mauney**, teacher at West Craven Middle, for her dedication to student achievement and her passion for career and technical education, embodying the excellence we strive for across Craven County Schools. Honors like this reinforce why Craven County Schools is the choice — where innovative teaching, strong leadership, and a commitment to student success come together to create exceptional opportunities for every learner. This nomination reflects the meaningful impact Ms. Mauney has in the classroom every day, inspiring students to explore their passions and build pathways to future success.



2025-2026 Southeast Region CTE Administrator of the Year

The Board of Education celebrates Mrs. **Holly Tolston** for her outstanding leadership, dedication to student success, and her unwavering commitment to growing high-quality CTE programs across Craven County. Under her guidance, Craven County Schools has expanded opportunities for students in career pathways, earned industry-recognized credentials, and strengthened partnerships with local businesses and higher education institutions. We are proud of her for being selected as the Southeast Regional CTE Administrator of the Year.

2026 Key Influencer Community Award for the Blue Angels

This award recognizes community leaders who make a significant impact through leadership, service, and their influence on others. As part of this recognition, **Mrs. Holly Tolston** was selected for the unique opportunity to fly with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on May 6, highlighting both her contributions to the community and the esteem in which she is held. We are very proud of Mrs. Tolston and this major accomplishment.



**THANK YOU FOR AN
AMAZING YEAR!**

CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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