

2016 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FINALISTS

Mathematics



Candace Crothers • *Glenwood Elementary, Chapel Hill-Carrboro*

The most successful learning occurs within an environment in which relationships have been respectfully established and maintained. My relationship with students, families, colleagues, and the community directly impacts the knowledge acquisition that materializes in my classroom. The power of relationships also stands true for how students and stakeholders perceive mathematics. I design instructional experiences that assist students in developing a growth mindset when confronted with situations, teach the intrinsic value of perseverance, and facilitate mathematical discourse to empower learners. The PAEMST application process directly contributed to my professional growth, and I am honored to represent North Carolina as a finalist.



Claudia Fann • *Pleasant Garden Elementary, Guilford County*

In 19 wonderful years teaching in NC, I have had the opportunity to share my love of math with students in Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd grade. Regardless of age, I found that a strong number sense is vital to success. Students need to understand the “why” behind math concepts rather than relying on common tricks. I encourage students to take ownership of their learning in an environment that welcomes productive struggle and collaboration. This increases self-confidence and creates an intrinsic motivation that fosters the natural curiosity within each child. I feel privileged to represent NC teachers as a PAEMST finalist!



Heather Landreth • *WH Robinson Elementary, Pitt County*

I have been blessed to lay the foundation for educational careers of kindergarten students for the last 12 years. I believe every student can learn. Part of our job as educators is to figure out what drives each child. What motivates them? What are their passions? I build a sense of community where students feel safe, loved and empowered to take control of their learning. Teaching is my passion. I am honored to represent North Carolina Teachers as a PAEMST Finalist! When I'm not teaching, my supportive husband & I enjoy the wonders of raising our 2 daughters.