



Public Education Foundation
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For Immediate Release

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Leadership Fellows Wrap up a Year of Thoughtful Work

2008-09 Fellows make final presentations; incoming class holds first meeting

Thirty-three Hamilton County Educators completed their twelve-month tenure as Leadership Fellows on Tuesday, May 12 at the offices of the Public Education Foundation, and passed the baton to a class of 32 newly selected Fellows. Leadership Fellows participate in a rigorous year of training in addition to their usual teaching duties to prepare for leading positive change in their schools.

The Leadership Fellows program, which is sponsored by the Public Education Foundation working in partnership with the Hamilton County Department of Education, has now produced almost 300 graduates, many of whom have taken leadership positions in Hamilton County Schools. This program has helped 41 principals, 45 assistant principals and 59 teacher leaders, including school-based instructional coaches and lead teachers.

The Leadership Fellows program, which is free to all participants, was established in 1999 with funding from the Annenberg Foundation. Its purpose is to give emerging school leaders the skills and knowledge they need to participate in decision-making and school improvement. The program involves monthly workshops, job shadowing, school visits, mentoring and study groups. The fellows also participate in leadership projects and presentations, and create a leadership portfolio demonstrating their learning.

The Public Education Foundation has sponsored the program from the beginning. "Every year, 60 to 70 teachers apply to become Leadership Fellows because they want to develop skills and build relationships to help them take an active role in moving their schools forward. This year's class has been very strong," said Ann Kilcher, PEF's Senior Consultant with the Leadership initiative.

Please see the attachments for information on both the 2008-09 and 2009-10 groups of Leadership Fellows.

About PEF:

The Public Education Foundation partners with Hamilton County Schools to help students succeed by offering professional training and coaching for teachers, principals and administrators; human and financial resources to promote research-based innovation; and research that promotes continuous achievement. Since 2000, PEF has helped to bring over \$50 million in supplemental, philanthropic funding to the school system.

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PEF Leadership Fellows, 2008-09



Rebecca Aslinger

Rebecca Morgan Aslinger
Hixson High School
English 10, Journalism, and Film Studies
6 years experience

AWARDS: Who's Who Among American Teachers

EDUCATION:

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
B.S. in Secondary English Education
Endorsement in 7-12 English and ESL K-12
University Honors Student (UHON)
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Masters of Education Reading Specialist K-12



Melanie Atchley

Melanie Curtis Atchley
Herman H. Battle Academy
Third Grade
8 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Urban Specialist Program, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Presenter at the Magnet Schools of America 2008 Conference in Chattanooga.

Presenter at the Reading First Showcase, 2006-2008 Chattanooga, Tennessee

Student Government Advisor

RTI Facilitator

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science Degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama

Masters of Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga



LeAnn Bellamy
Hixson High School
11th & 12th grade, Anatomy & Physiology and Genetics
9 years experience

EDUCATION: Jacksonville State University, & TN Tech University



LeAnn Bellamy

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Katherine Benefield
Lead Teacher, Direct Assistive Technology for the District
12 Years in the District

ACHIEVEMENTS: Served First as Teacher of Technology at Ooltewah Middle School for 2 years (1997 and 1998); Five Years as Network Engineer, wired the schools, set servers, created and administered the district website, managed the Year 2000 transition of our network, wrote programs including Course Registration for Staff Development and Electronic IEP(1999 through 2004); promoted to administration under Department of Exceptional Education, wrote a grant that established the AT Access to Education grant for \$200,000 and managed all Assistive Technology assessments, procurement, training until now, website <http://hcschools/eeac>, which I designed and administer.

AWARDS: Grant that established the Assistive Technology division of Exceptional Education 2004

EDUCATION: Dual BS, Elementary Education and Special Education; MA in Rhetoric; Great many courses and certifications in Computer Network Engineering with a specialty in Computer Security



Katherine Benefield

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Melanie  
Biederman

Melanie Biederman  
Red Bank High School  
Media Specialist  
13 years experience

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Leadership Practicum- 450+ hours of leadership experiences which included planning/facilitating professional development, academic coaching, developing integrated curriculum, etc.

Spring 2008 Magnet School Association Conference- Co- presented a conference session, "Explore, Explain, Exhibit: The Museum Model." This session promoted the museum platform as an authentic venue for student engagement.

2006 National Middle School Association Conference Co-presented a session entitled "Urban Reform through the Collaborative Process and Museum Connections." The interactive session took participants through object inquiry as a means to develop a cross-curricular integrated thematic unit.

**EDUCATION:**

(June 2009) anticipated completion of Post Master's Certificate in School Leadership UTC

Osborne Fellow: Master of Education, UTC

Library Certification, Trevecca University

BA in Elementary Education, Tennessee Tech University

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Callie Branam

Callie Smith Branam
Howard Middle School
Literacy Coach

EDUCATION: Bachelors of Science in Secondary English Education and a certification in English as a Second Language from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Masters in Education in Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning from Tennessee Tech.

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Rachel Burgess

Rachel Burgess  
Orchard Knob Middle School  
8<sup>th</sup> grade LA & US History  
8 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS: Osborne Fellows  
EDUCATION:  
BA from Tusculum College  
Masters in Education UTC



Michelle Cochran

Michelle P. Cochran  
Orchard Knob Middle School  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics  
8 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS:  
State Certified Mentor  
Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated,  
Pi Omega Chapter  
AWARDS: Sam's Teacher of the year 2006-2007  
EDUCATION:  
B.S. Business Administration, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Master of Education, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga



Elizabeth Cordell

Elizabeth Cordell  
Snow Hill Elementary  
Kindergarten  
15 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS: Highly Qualified teacher 2003  
EDUCATION: BS 1- 8 grade Tennessee Temple University  
Early childhood K-3 UTC  
Masters Administration and Supervision Trevecca Nazarene





Joe Curtis

Joe Curtis  
Hardy Elementary  
5<sup>th</sup> grade Math Lead Teacher  
26 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS: High Performing Teacher the last 5 years.  
EDUCATION: BS, UTC  
Master's, Trevecca University

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Michelle Doyle

Michelle Doyle
East Lake Elementary School
3rd grade
13 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS: Primary Math Lead teacher-07-08
AWARDS: High Performing Teacher Award- Benwood
EDUCATION: Master of Technology in Education
Bachelor of Education-Elementary Education

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Julie Fine

Julie Fine  
Snow Hill Elementary  
2nd Grade  
27 years Experience

AWARDS:2007 Hamilton County Teacher of the Year,  
Tennessee's Southeast Regional Teacher of the Year, 2003  
Highly Qualified Teacher, 1990 Career Level III Teacher  
EDUCATION:  
B.S. in Elementary Education, K-9  
Masters in Administration, K-12

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Cindy Gaston

Cindy Gaston
CSLA
Curriculum Coach
11 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS: Junior League Mini-Grant Recipient (2008)
Invited to Present at National Paideia Conference (2009)
EDUCATION: BS in Elementary Education from UTC



Scott Gorrill

Scott Gorrill
McConnell Elementary School
K-5, Physical Education
6 years experience

AWARDS: Phi Theta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa
NASPE (National Association for Sport and Physical Education)
Outstanding Major of the Year 2002

EDUCATION:
Masters of Arts in Educational Leadership, Trevecca Nazarene University
Bachelor of Arts Degree, Aurora University: Aurora, Illinois



Maria Hansen

Maria Hansen
Brown Academy
5th grade- model Classroom
7 years experience

EDUCATION: Bachelor's Degree, UTC



Katie Hawkins
Brown Middle School
7th grade Science
18 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS:

National Urban School Association Cincinnati, Ohio 1994 Presenter:
Director of the Summer School of Excellence 1994 Phoenix Middle School
Director of the Summer School of Excellence 1995
Presenter - CAMTA February 21, 1998 How to Survive the First Year
Teaching Math
Recipient: Junior League Education Grant, \$500.00 "How to Measure
Success", 1999
Recipient: Public Education Foundation Grant: \$1800.00 "Just Outside Your
Door" Investigating Water, 1999
Assistant for Girls' Volleyball 2006-2007, 2007- 2008, 2008-2009, Brown
Middle School
Recipient: Junior League Grant: The Living Library in the Learning
Environment, 2007
Recipient: Unum Strong Schools grant, 2009
Team Leader for Seventh Grade Silver
Science Department Head
AWARDS: Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year, 1996



Katie Hawkins

EDUCATION:

Rhodes College: BA in Sociology, Education
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga: Masters, Early Childhood
University of Tennessee: Doctorate, Educational Policy Studies

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Diane Hoilman

Diane Hoilman  
CSLA  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
8 years experience

**EDUCATION:**

Bachelor's in Elementary Education, Tennessee Technological  
University; State of TN NTE Certified (1-8)

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Gail Huffstutler

Gail Huffstutler
Brown Academy
Third Grade
10 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Member of Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher Honor Society, Chattanooga Chapter, Alpha Xi)
Completion of Delta Kappa Gamma Leadership and Advanced Leadership Seminars

EDUCATION:

B. S. in Human Development from Lee University
Masters in Educational Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University



Beth Palmer Ledgerwood

Beth Palmer Ledgerwood
Hamilton County (Adult) High
English
11 years experience

EDUCATION:

BS Secondary Education UTC
Masters Curriculum and Instruction University of Phoenix



Jill McBryar

Jill McBryar
Lookout Valley Middle-High School
Ninth and Twelfth grade English
8 years experience

AWARDS: WDEF / Bi-Lo Golden Apple Award (March 2009), Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year award (May 2007), Hamilton County New Teacher of the Year award (May 2004)

EDUCATION: Bachelor's from UTC, Master's from Cumberland University





Michael McKamey

Michael McKamey
Howard Middle
Algebra
7 years experience

EDUCATION:
BS in Education Middle Tennessee State University



Tonya Morrison

Tonya Morrison
Hillcrest Elementary school
Literacy Leader
8 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS: Certified as a State Mentor

EDUCATION:
M.B.A. in Organizational Management (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)
Certified in Elementary Education (Pre K – 4th grades)
B.B.A. in Business Management (Mercer University – Macon, GA)



Susan Pleva

Susan Pleva
Brown International Academy
First grade teacher
24 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS:
Member Hamilton County Education Association
International Reading Association

EDUCATION:
B.S. degree in special education from University of Tennessee at Knoxville
M.A. degree in learning disabilities from University of North Alabama
Post-Master's work in reading curriculum



Jill Reese

Jill Reese
HCDE Central office
Lead Numeracy Coach (9-12)
27 years experience in classroom; 2 years as numeracy coach

EDUCATION: B.S. Degree from UTC
Masters Degree: Tennessee Technological University



Cheryle Robertson

Cheryle D. Robertson
Woodmore Elementary
Literacy Leader
9 years experience

EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Science in Education, U.T.K.
Master of Arts in Teaching, Lee University
E. D.S., Lee University



Jessica Sharp

Jessica Sharp
North Hamilton County Elementary
3rd grade Math Lead Teacher
6 years experience

EDUCATION:
Bachelor's Degree in Human Ecology, Child and Family Studies,
Pre K-4, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

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Evelyn Patricia Sims  
Central Office  
Pre-K Programs  
7 years experience



Evelyn Sims

ACHIEVEMENTS: Field Instructor for University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Social Work Department  
Board Member of Department of Children's Services & Tennessee Center for Child Welfare  
Board Member for Hazel Elizabeth Robinson Bowles Foundation  
Phi Theta Kappa Society  
Psi Beta National Honor Society for Psychology

AWARDS: Employee of the Year Award, 1978 MBMHI

EDUCATION:

Tennessee Technological University Specialist in Education/Instructional Leadership

Tennessee Technological University Master of Arts in Education

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Bachelor of Social Work



Eric Smith  
East Ridge Elementary School  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 years experience



Eric Smith

ACHIEVEMENTS:

practicum teaching in St. Ives, England through Lee University.

grade level chairman for five years,

Designated Administrator, 2008-09

AWARDS:

Graduated Magna Cum Laude from UTC

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Lee University

Master of Education in School Leadership from University of Tennessee at Chattanooga





Karen Smith

Karen M. Smith  
Soddy Daisy Middle  
6-8 Instructional Coach  
18 years experience

EDUCATION:

B.S. East Tennessee State University  
M.Ed Brenau University  
Library Media Certificate, Indiana State University



Valerie Smith  
H.H. Battle Academy  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
11 years experience

ACHIEVEMENTS:

2008 – Passed School Leadership Series Exam  
2008-2009- Grade Level Representative for 5th Grade  
2007-2008 School Improvement Plan Team Leader  
2006-Present- Building Designee  
2007 -ITEA Technology Conference Representative (San Antonio, TX)  
2006-Administrator for Summer Reading Program at Battle Academy  
2005- Co-Presenter for Reading First Conference (Vocabulary)  
2005- Reading Recovery Representative- Columbus, OH  
2003- 2006 Spelling Bee Coordinator  
2002-2003 First Classroom Teacher Hired at Battle Academy  
2002-2003-Grade Level Representative for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
1999-2000 Written Character Education Plays (performed by Woodmore  
4<sup>th</sup> graders)

AWARDS:

News Channel 9 Teacher of the Week- 2006  
WJTT Teacher Award- 2005

EDUCATION:

B.S. Elementary Education 12/98 (K-5, 4-8)  
M.A. Instructional Leadership



Valerie Smith



David Sneed

David Sneed  
Soddy Daisy High  
English 12, Public Speaking, Student Council Leadership Class  
13 years experience

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Hosted the 2009 Student Council State Convention  
2009 Student Council Advisor of the Year

**EDUCATION:**

Undergraduate Degree in both English and Theatre  
(Tennessee Temple and UTC)  
Certification in Speech (Tennessee Tech)



Hollie Steele

Hollie Steele  
Battle Academy  
4<sup>th</sup> grade  
7 years experience

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Student Government Advisor, presenter at regional theatre conference; published lesson plans in Creating Meaning Through the Arts by Claudia Cornett

**AWARDS:** Leadership Award in Speech Communications Department at the University of Tennessee Knoxville

**EDUCATION:**

B. A. in Speech Communications- University of Tennessee Knoxville  
Masters in Education- University of Tennessee Chattanooga



Jeana Turner

Jeana Turner  
Apison Elementary School  
Lead Literacy Teacher: 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
17 years experience

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** Certified Reading Specialist  
Presenter for PEF's Literacy Institute and Principal's Retreat

**EDUCATION:** MA Leadership/Supervision Tennessee Tech  
BS Elementary Education University of Tennessee Chattanooga



## 2009-10 PEF Leadership Fellows

|     |                  |                          |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.  | Jennifer Agan    | Ooltewah High            |
| 2.  | Randall Bell     | Hixson Elementary        |
| 3.  | Israel Bobe      | East Ridge Middle        |
| 4.  | Janetta Brown    | East Ridge Elementary    |
| 5.  | Kim Brown        | East Ridge High          |
| 6.  | Cynthia Cooper   | Tyner Academy            |
| 7.  | Laura Cooper     | Barger Elementary        |
| 8.  | Chris Darras     | Battle Academy           |
| 9.  | Dustin Dotzler   | Hardy Elementary         |
| 10. | Lon Eilders      | East Ridge High          |
| 11. | Julia Gaines     | Hixson High              |
| 12. | Cory Hall        | Wallace A. Smith         |
| 13. | Jennifer Hartley | Hardy Elementary         |
| 14. | Kimberly Hixson  | Loftis Middle            |
| 15. | Rebecca Holden   | Battle Academy           |
| 16. | Laura Houston    | Signal Mountain M/H      |
| 17. | Sheila Martin    | Center for Creative Arts |
| 18. | Heidi Mies       | Thrasher Elementary      |
| 19. | Raquel Newton    | Thrasher Elementary      |
| 20. | Misty O'Leary    | Falling Water Elementary |
| 21. | Lee Ann Olskey   | Central High             |
| 22. | Michele Reeves   | East Brainerd Elementary |
| 23. | Lindie Roden     | Normal Park Upper        |
| 24. | Kathy Simpson    | Howard Middle            |
| 25. | Sharon Smith     | Barger Elementary        |
| 26. | Eric Stansberry  | 21 <sup>st</sup> Century |
| 27. | Billie Stewart   | East Ridge Elementary    |
| 28. | Jane Varnell     | CSLA                     |
| 29. | Carmen Veller    | CSAS                     |
| 30. | Amy Willard      | Normal Park Upper        |
| 31. | Rashaad Williams | Tyner Academy            |
| 32. | Jon Young        | Sale Creek Middle/High   |