

GACTE



FALL 2024 DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY



**Thursday, November 14, 2024
Embassy Suites Atlanta Buckhead
Atlanta, GA**



PROGRAM AGENDA



Buffet Opens at 6:30pm
Musical Selections: Michael Barriteau

Welcome.....Sheri Hardee

Recognition of Performer.....Loleta Sartin

Musical Performer.....Michael Barriteau

Recognition of Sponsors.....Sharon Hixon & Loleta Sartin

Introduction of Awards.....Sharon Hixon & Loleta Sartin

Co-Presenters

GACTE.....Cindi Chance

GaNTEP.....Penney McRoy

GAE.....Craig Carter

PAGE.....Craig Harper

GAEL.....Ben Wiggins

Georgia Outstanding Mentor Teacher Awards
Cindi Chance Award

Closing Remarks.....Carla Tanguay and Michelle Thompson

Congrats!

Georgia Outstanding Mentor Teacher 2024 Awardees

Congratulations on this well-deserved award. Mentor teachers like you have been instrumental in helping to develop a commitment to lifelong learning. You have made a significant impact on the lives of young people in your school community, in your professional community and in the broader community.



GACTE provides leadership on issues related to professional education, promotes effective public policy, and enhances and improves professional education programs at member institutions.

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: SOUTHWEST P-20

Tarsha Carter



Tarsha Carter is an outstanding mentor and advocate for novice teachers at Sumter County Elementary, where she dedicates herself to guiding and supporting new educators daily. As both the grade chair and ELA department lead, Ms. Carter plays a critical role in helping her team grow, offering valuable guidance in lesson planning, data monitoring, and weekly professional learning.

She collaborates closely with Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW), serving as a mentor to teacher candidates and participating in GSW's Induction Support events. According to Principal Teira Wallace, Ms. Carter's dedication to fostering strong relationships, her unwavering support, and her passion for education make her an invaluable asset to our school, district, and community. Her commitment to helping others shine exemplifies why she is most deserving of the GACTE Mentor Teacher Award.

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: NORTHEAST P-20

Cathy Doan



Cathy Doan is a second-grade teacher at Liberty Elementary School in Toccoa, GA, who serves her elementary school as a member of the leadership team. Helping others gives her great joy. Coming along beside young teacher candidates and providing opportunity for practice in the field is something she welcomes. She has the mentality of, “let me show you the way.” Cathy is gentle and kind to those she mentors. She is always willing to share knowledge with others and celebrate with those who are doing good work.

According to Assistant Professor Lori Rose of Toccoa Falls College, Ms. Doan has mentored teacher candidates for several years. As a mentor teacher, Ms. Doan comes along side of pre-service teachers and gently shows them the way. She provides specific instructions as pre-service teachers create healthy habits and improve their teaching practices. Her excitement for learning and education is contagious.”

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: NORTHEAST P-20

Ana Hortman



Ana Hortman was the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year at Mundy Mill Arts Academy in Gainesville City Schools. In addition to being grade level chair at her school, she has mentored University of North Georgia (UNG) teacher candidates for years. Dean Sheri Hardee highlighted Ms. Hortman as someone who “is recognized by our students for her dedication to improving and enhancing the field of education, to caring for the students and families with whom she works, and to guiding and mentoring our UNG students on their journeys to become Elementary and Special Education teachers.”

Principal Crystal Brown commented that Ms. Horton is worthy of this prestigious award as she “exemplifies the qualities and attributes that an outstanding mentor should possess...She challenges them to provide the best education to students and models how to use multiple methods to assist students in gaining mastery of the standards. She also teaches the interns necessary skills they will need outside of instructional time, such as completing managerial tasks on time, effectively communicating with parents and family members, and creating lesson plans aligned to the standards.”

**GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR
TEACHER AWARD: METRO ATLANTA P-20**

Molly Pharr



Molly Pharr is a math teacher at Whitewater Middle School in Fayetteville, GA. According to Dr. Mesa Davis, Assistant Professor at Clayton State University, Ms. Pharr “is an excellent teacher who balances pedagogy and content knowledge in a way that supports growth and achievement. Her mentee never attended school in the US, so her obligations were two pronged: to model cultural norms and to train him as a teacher. Because Ms. Pharr is patient and kind, yet firm, she handled the task beautifully. She intuitively knew when to support her mentee and when to let him grapple with the situation. Most importantly, she was excellent at giving feedback in a way that was honest and explicit but did not sting. For example, early on she felt that her mentee was not as connected to the lessons as he should have been, so she required him to write daily lesson plans (which is over and above what we require as an EPP) until he met her expectations. That decision was incredibly successful.” Her principal, Brian Butera indicated that “she consistently steps up to mentor new teachers...and continually self reflects, and she always gives her students 110%.”

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: MIDDLE GA P-20

Charm Mapp



Charm Mapp, Ed.S., is an eighth-grade math teacher at Clifton Ridge Middle School and a dedicated mentor with 18 years of experience supervising teacher candidates, providing exemplary learning experiences, and serving as a role model for beginning teachers. She has also served as a liaison for Georgia College & State University and currently teaches a pre-education course for future teachers.

According to Principal Stacy Carr, “Mrs. Mapp’s innovative teaching methods, coupled with her ability to inspire and engage students, set a remarkable example for her colleagues and entire school community. It is clear that she has a profound impact on the lives of her students, and her work has significantly contributed to the high standards we uphold at our school.” Dr. Stephanie Leggett concurs that she is most deserving of the mentoring award as “Mentees are increasingly motivated as a result of being with her. Mentees often remain in contact with Mrs. Mapp due to her positive impact upon their lives and career.”

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: SOUTHEAST P-20

Tammy Smith



Tammy Smith is a fifth-grade teacher at Tybee Maritime Academy in Savannah. She has been instrumental in her school's academic success. Her leadership has driven innovation in the school's project-based learning. One of Tammy's admirable qualities is her consistent advocacy for the teaching profession and the mentoring of teacher candidates at Georgia Southern University.

According to Assistant Principal Alicia Beck, "she expertly models professionalism and pedagogical expertise while remaining nurturing and understanding of the challenges involved in the teaching profession. She communicates exceptionally high expectations for herself and those around her." Principal Ulrich commented on her passion for environmental science and the robust experiences that significantly enhanced the preparation of her mentees. Ms. Smith encourages her colleagues and mentees to embrace their roles as educators. Her nurturing support to mentorship and unwavering support to the teaching profession make her an ideal candidate for this prestigious award.

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: EAST P-20

Samantha McNeil



Samantha McNeil is an Instructional Specialist at Jenkins-White Elementary School (JWES) in Richmond County. She is an ardent believer in providing quality instructional support to teachers at her school. She has served as a committed and supportive mentor for teacher candidates at Augusta University.

Ms. McNeil is passionate about the teaching profession. Dr. Kim Barker, Interim Associate Dean, emphasizes Ms. McNeil's belief that mentor teachers and others in the school should exude positivity and support for public education and the profession our teacher candidates are choosing. It is her hope that the future teachers who come through JWES will have long and fruitful careers making a difference in the lives of thousands of children.

According to Principal Usry-Wilson, "Mrs. McNeil is not only a dedicated instructional coach but also the building Coordinator for Augusta University Interns/teacher candidates. In this role, she has gone above and beyond to ensure that the interns under her guidance are fully supported. Whether it's providing critical feedback, offering resources, or simply being a sounding board, Mrs. McNeil is committed to their professional growth and success. She has made it her mission to meet their needs, and the positive impact she has had on these future educators is truly remarkable."

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: WEST P-20

Emily Brockway



Emily Brockway is an elementary self-contained adapted curriculum teacher in Coweta County. She teaches grades K-5. She is married to her husband of ten years and has a wonderful two-year old boy. Ms. Brockway has served as a mentor teacher for University of West Georgia Special Education programs. Her commitment and dedication to the teaching profession and to the teacher candidates she has mentored is outstanding.

According to Ms. Brockway, “I adore my role as an educator and a mentor. I love celebrating the victories, big and small. I think back to when I was an upcoming teacher and even a first-year teacher, and I am thankful to those who mentored me and who helped me gain the confidence to be the best teacher and mentor I could be. I am a firm believer that you must love, listen to, understand, and accept students before you can teach them. While academic skills are important, I strive to instill confidence and life skills into my students to help them become valued members in society. I am honored to be a recipient of this award, and I hope to continue to mentor and inspire future teachers.”

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: NORTHWEST P-20

Tiffany Chambers



Tiffany Chambers is an enthusiastic elementary school teacher with 20 years of experience in developing educational programs that foster student growth. She supports novice teachers in creating engaging lesson plans that meet the needs of each individual student. Serving Whitfield County Schools as a primary grade teacher in ESS, 1st and kindergarten, she has taught all subject areas and provides professional development activities school-wide.

Ms. Chambers has also served Dalton State College as a mentor teacher for teacher candidates. She serves as an excellent model by establishing and maintaining positive relationships with students and their families. She uses various instructional strategies and utilizes technology to enhance student learning. Ms. Chambers' mentorship and support for all learners in a nurturing environment make her most deserving of this award.

GEORGIA OUTSTANDING MENTOR TEACHER AWARD: ATHENS P-20

Rebecca Gajda



Rebecca Gajda is a high school teacher at Apalachee High School, Barrow County Schools, and has taught many courses such as AP Macroeconomics, Economics, American Government, World Geography, World History, Personal Financial Literacy. She believes “It is our job to prepare students for life and to help them discover in what direction their future may lie. We do this by exposing them to as much of the world as possible and by providing them with the skills necessary to interpret and interact with the world around them.”

Ms. Gajda has served teacher candidates in the Social Studies education program since the spring of 2019 at the University of Georgia. Dean Spangler indicated that she “offers teacher candidates a vibrant and responsive classroom experience which welcomes them as professionals, as colleagues, and as scholars. Rebecca’s mentoring of teacher candidates stands out in her teaching, her accessibility, the relationships she makes with her teacher candidates and her ability to create spaces for the teacher candidate to take risks, receive feedback, and grow...her teaching is rooted in building the skills, understanding, engagement and fulfillment of the very diverse groups of students she serves. She doesn’t just model living an engaged professional life; she welcomes, invites and engages her teacher candidate in the same work.”

CINDI CHANCE AWARD

Dr. Joyce Many

Joyce Many, the 2025 Cindi Chance Award recipient, embodies everything this honor represents. Her life has been devoted to all aspects of the teaching profession and service.

Joyce began her career as a teacher in Louisiana, working with students from kindergarten through eighth grade. She transitioned to higher education, starting at Louisiana State University before moving to Northern College in Aberdeen, Scotland, as a research fellow. Later, she continued her academic journey at Texas A&M University and Georgia State University.

Joyce, a prolific researcher, has published approximately 100 articles on a variety of topics that have significantly impacted the field. Her research interests span social-emotional learning, teaching during the pandemic, computing, instructional practices during induction, culturally responsive pedagogy, professional development schools, technology in instruction, student research, multiple aspects of literacy instruction, and online instruction—to name a few.

Throughout her career, Joyce has been consistently recognized for her contributions to research and the teaching profession. She received the National Reading Conference Student Research Award and the Louisiana Educational Research Association Outstanding Student Award early in her career. She was also honored with the National Reading Conference Early Career Achievement Award. She was named GSU Alumni Distinguished Professor at Georgia State University and received the GSU College of Education Faculty Research Award. Joyce and her colleagues, Bhatnagar and Kim, received the Distinguished Paper Award from GERA. AERA recognized her collaborative work with Fisher-Ari for outstanding contributions to research in teacher education.

A dedicated mentor, Joyce has co-authored numerous publications with students, former students, and postdocs from her time at Texas A&M and GSU. She has often presented with these mentees, reflecting her commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars.

Joyce has also been awarded over \$11 million in external funding from organizations such as the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of the Navy, and CEEDAR.

Her service to the profession is extensive and varied. Some of her notable service roles include serving on multiple editorial boards, acting as a guest reviewer for several publications, serving as secretary-treasurer for AERA's Literature Special Interest Group, and contributing to various committees for the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. She also founded and facilitated Georgia's Teacher Education Research Consortium, served on the University System of Georgia's edRAC, and held a position on the GACTE Board.



Thank you to Michael Barriteau!



Michael Barriteau
MAT Candidate, Mercer University
Music Teacher

Michael is a multi-instrumental artist with a background in Audio Engineering, Composition and Arranging, as well as Performance. His primary instrument is the Tenor Saxophone, so if you're looking for a sweet sound or a beautiful serenade, please contact Michael.

Email: michaelbarriteau34@gmail.com
Phone number: 703-599-2856



Congratulations!

Georgia's Largest & Most Trusted Educator Association Celebrates You

PAGE congratulates all mentor teacher awardees.
As excellent educators, you're positively influencing the lives of your students.
As exceptional mentors, you're ensuring the success
of Georgia's newest educators now and throughout their careers.

From all of us to each of you, thank you for all you do!



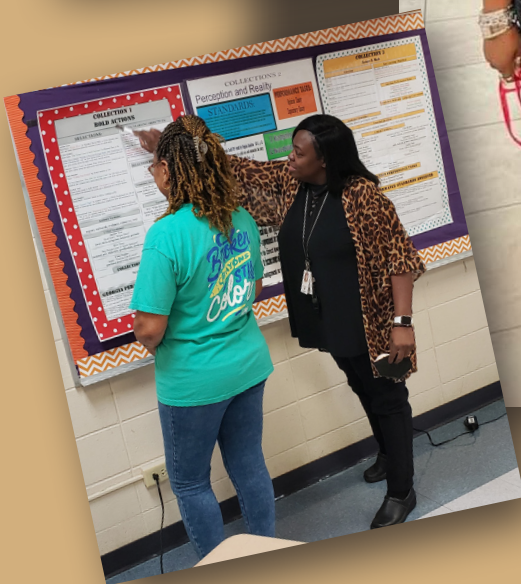
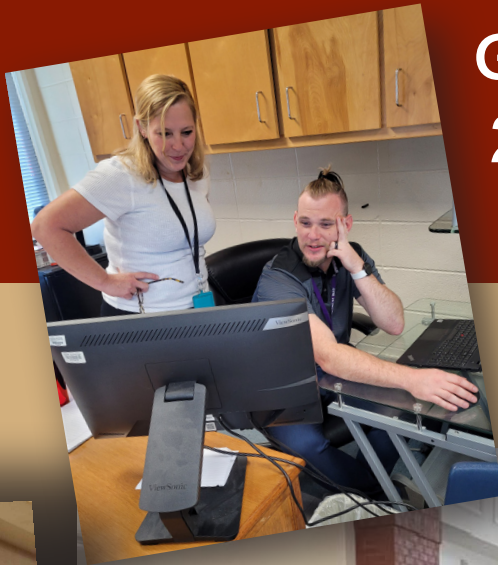
**PAGE Also Congratulates GACTE on 50 Years of Excellent Service.
Happy Anniversary!**



PAGE supports Georgia educators throughout all stages of their careers by providing unparalleled legal coverage, one-on-one coaching, legislative advocacy, grants, scholarships, and professional learning. And, through programs such as PAGE STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition), PAGE GAD (Georgia Academic Decathlon), PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades, and PAGE FGE (Future Georgia Educators), we recognize and encourage excellence in education.



GAE Congratulates the 2024 GA Mentor Teacher Award Winners



GAE is proud to be a sponsor of the 2024 GA Mentor Teacher Awards. The recipients of this award epitomize the collaborative and professional educators whose work will help create the next generation of great teachers and great public schools for all of Georgia's students.

Congratulations to all of this year's awardees.

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CONGRATULATIONS 2024 GACTE AWARD WINNERS!

Thank you for dedicating your careers to
serving Georgia's children!



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



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GAEL'S MISSION

The mission of GAEL is to improve public education in Georgia through high quality leadership development, advocacy, and a resource network for educational leaders.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 GAEL WINTER CONFERENCE

Jan. 26-28, 2025
The Classic Center
Athens, GA

2025 GAEL SUMMER CONFERENCE

July 13-16, 2025
Jekyll Island Convention Center
Jekyll Island, GA



CONGRATULATIONS 2024 Mentor Teacher Award Winners!



Thank you for your commitment to the teaching profession. Your mentoring and support of pre-service educators helps ensure Georgia teachers are ready on day one to positively impact student learning!



Georgia Professional Standards Commission

www.gapsc.com

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**Thank you to our sponsors who
made this awards dinner a success.**



Cindi Chance

