

PENC Continuing Education Scholarship and First Year Teacher Grant Winners!

2010/2011 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our 2010-2011 Continuing Education Scholarship Recipients! The recipients were recognized at the Annual Board Meeting in Raleigh on April 16, 2011, and received a check for \$1,000 in the name of their respective universities.

Sharon L. Nixon

Ms. Sharon Nixon is 2010 recipient of the Teacher Assistant Continuing Education Scholarship. Ms. Nixon is employed as a Teacher Assistant with the Edenton-Chowan School System and works at White Oak Elementary in Edenton, NC. Sharon is admired by her peers because of her high expectations for students, both behaviorally and academically. She believes that by having her own classroom she will assist children with their educational journey and put them on the correct path for success. She is currently enrolled at Elizabeth City State University and is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. Mrs. Nixon shows a commitment to life-long learning as she has set her distant goals to secure National Board Certification and pursue a Master's degree in Education.

Lani Beaver Earnhardt

Mrs. Lani Earnhardt is a 2010 recipient of the Continuing Education Scholarship. Mrs. Earnhardt is a resident of Salisbury and is employed with the Rowan-Salisbury School System. Mrs. Earnhardt works as a classroom teacher with second grade at Millbridge Elementary in China Grove, NC. Mrs. Earnhardt has been in the classroom for seven years. Lani's principal describes her as an "exemplary teacher that implements innovative ideas and utilizes 21st century skills." Another peer writes, "Lani Earnhardt represents the best in our teaching profession, a consummate professional who sets the highest standards for herself." Mrs. Earnhardt has shown leadership skills throughout her teaching career by involving herself with numerous committees. This has provided insight and the realization that she can "impact a greater number of students and staff by leading them into the 21st century of education." Lani is currently enrolled in the Master's Program for School Administrators at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Amanda Buckner Fields

Mrs. Amanda Fields is a 2010 recipient of the Continuing Education Scholarship. Mrs. Fields is employed with the Buncombe County School System and works at Weaverville Elementary as a third grade teacher. Mrs. Fields is described as a "superb teacher who will go the extra mile for her students, her school and the teaching profession." Another peer describes her ability to utilize varied instruction by saying, "Mrs. Fields addressed the needs of kinesthetic learners by using songs with hand motions to teach many different mathematical concepts. Students continue to sing her songs and perform her songs with hand motions long after leaving her class." As one who sees her role as learning from her mistakes and trying to better herself without being too critical, Amanda states, "Don't let success go to your head or failure go to your heart." Amanda's self portrayal is "an aspiring teacher that is passionate about student success."

2010/2011 NEW TEACHER GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our 13 New Teacher Grant Award winners! Each teacher was recognized and awarded a check for \$250 to be used for instructional materials that will directly impact student learning. Each year PENC awards four grants per geographical region. There are 8 regions, so PENC has the potential to award 32 grants across the state.

- Algernon Keith - Camden Co. [Camden County High School and Camtech High School]*
- Megan Matthews - Duplin Co. [North Duplin Elementary School]*
- Thomas Reid - Duplin Co. [James Kenan High School]*
- Joann Blumenfeld - Wake Co. [Dillard Drive Middle School]*
- Kimberly Body - Durham Co. [Spring Valley Elementary School]*
- John Coulter - Nash-Rocky Mount [Southern Nash High School]*
- Morgan Early - Wake Co. [Millbrook High School]*
- Katherine Hughes - Wake Co. [Mills Park Middle School]*
- Lindsay Eversole - Alamance/Burlington [Elon Elementary School]*
- Ana Ginorio - Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co. [Parkland High School]*
- Kristen McKillop - Winston-Salem/Forsyth Co. [North Hills Elementary School]*
- Megan Miller - Caldwell Co. [Sawmills, Valmead and Happy Valley Elementary Schools]*
- Natalie Ervin - Rowan-Salisbury [East Rowan High School]*