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Discover Duval Schools Tour to Raines High School highlights school's diverse programs and initiatives.

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*Private Capital Helping Public Schools Prepare All Students for College or Career*



# QEA School Teachers Hall, Bostic-Jones Among Five Finalists for 2015 Duval County Teacher of the Year

This year, two of the five finalists for the 2015 Florida Blue Duval County Teacher of the Year came from QEA schools. Sabrina Hall, a math teacher at Andrew Jackson High School and Michael Bostic-Jones, a U.S. history teacher from William M. Raines High School were chosen from the broader group of 15 semi-finalists in early February. Both Bostic-Jones and Hall came to teaching from the private sector with a passion for impacting youth through education.

Sabrina Hall left her job in corporate America to pursue her passion of teaching five years ago. From the private sector, she brought the same tenacity and high expectations that led to her success. Hall believes her role as a teacher is to foster an environment where students

develop a love for learning. In order to do this, she genuinely believes in every student's ability to succeed and is prepared to nurture the whole child. As a result, Hall is one of the teachers at Jackson receiving a \$20,000 retention bonus through the QEA Fund, and is also a mentor to a resident in the Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program.

Michael Bostic-Jones also left a lucrative career in sales to become a teacher in Duval County's urban core. Bostic-Jones' AP U.S. History students have made tremendous strides under his tutelage. In addition to his work in the classroom, he is also the chair of the Social Studies department and coaches the boys swimming team and the boys' tennis team. Bostic-Jones communicates on a constant

basis with parents and builds ongoing relationships with the parents of his students as well as the parents of the athletes he coaches in tennis and swimming. He thinks it is important for parents and teachers to work together toward the best interests of the students and show the students that there are lots of people rallied around them wanting them to succeed.

Both of these exemplary educators personify the type of teachers that QEA is working to bring into schools within the Duval Transformation Office region. If the initiative can continue to populate schools with this caliber of human capital, the results and impact on student achievement will be significant.



## William Raines High School Receives Visitors on Discover Duval Schools Tour

*A group of more than 40 community members gathered to tour the historic school and visit key programs*



On February 4, a group of community members, philanthropists, alumni and other stakeholders attended a Discover Duval Schools tour to William M. Raines High School.

Discover Duval Schools is a partnership between Duval County Public Schools and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund that takes citizens on tours of dozens of Duval County schools. The initiative has put a focus on visits to QEA schools this year. Raines was the first high school to be featured.

The tour began at the Duval County Public Schools office, with a welcome from district staff. Participants then boarded a school bus and traveled to Raines

High School.

On the ride over, the principal of Raines, Vincent Hall, was aboard to give some historical background about his school and what guests could expect to see on the tour. Hall, a proud Raines graduate, has been the principal for the past two years and is guiding the transformation that can be seen throughout the school.

Upon arrival at Raines, guests were welcomed by the Raines marching band, and escorted by the ROTC to the Culinary Arts Center. Raines has a thriving culinary arts program where students not only learn the basics of culinary preparation, but are also able to earn

ServSafe certification. The students prepared and served a delicious breakfast for the tour participants, including the Honorable Dr. Connie Hall, District 5 School Board Member, Iranetta Wright, Region Superintendent for the Duval Transformation Office, QEA Fund donor Cindy Edelman and community activist Anwar Bey.

After breakfast, the group had the opportunity to view a Mandarin Chinese language class, a digital media class, an AICE math class being taught by a Jacksonville Teacher Residency program mentor and resident, and the Raines Nation Center, which provides wraparound services for both students and parents.

## Spotlight: The New Teacher Project

The New Teacher Project (TNP) was one of the first investments made from the Quality Education for All Fund last December. TNP is a national organization that specializes in human capital strategies for districts across the country. Since engaging with TNP over a year ago, Duval County Public Schools has reaped several benefits from its expertise.

- 47% of Duval Transformation Office (DTO) teachers feel better prepared to meet the demands of the new Florida Standards.
- 70% of DTO teachers feel the DTO is fostering a safe learning environment.
- Exceeding the district average of 46%, 51% of DTO teachers feel they are provided access to additional materials for their classroom

In addition, the initial investment in TNP has been leveraged to secure \$125,000 to continue the work that began last year with the initial QEA grant. The Superintendent has proclaimed TNP to be the investment that has shown the most significant and speedy return on investment in the entire QEA portfolio.



## School Board Votes Unanimously to Extend Superintendent's Contract

The Duval County School Board voted 7-0 to extend the contract of Superintendent Nikolai Vitti at their March 3 meeting.

This extension allows Dr. Vitti to continue leading the Duval County Public Schools through 2019.

More than 20 community members, faith-based and business leaders spoke in support of the contract extension at the school board meeting, including QEA Fund Advisory Board Chairman Wayne Weaver.

## QEA Fund in the news

### Jacksonville Daily Record

[http://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/show\\_story.php?Story\\_id=544407](http://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/show_story.php?Story_id=544407)

[http://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/show\\_story.php?Story\\_id=544765](http://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/show_story.php?Story_id=544765)

### WJCT 89.9 FM

<http://news.wjct.org/post/life-lessons-overcoming-obstacles>

### The Florida Times-Union

<http://jacksonville.com/opinion/editorials/2014-12-05/story/cheers-quinton-white-earns-major-leadership-award>

<http://jacksonville.com/news/schools/2015-02-14/story/chartrand-name-prompts-different-reactions-education-debate>

<http://jacksonville.com/business/columnists/2015-02-19/story/guest-column-nikolai-vitti-deserves-support-and-time>

<http://jacksonville.com/news/florida/2015-03-02/story/jacksonville-businessman-gary-chartrand-reappointed-second-term-state>

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2015-03-10/story/duval-schools-get-grant-expand-efforts-improve-face-falling-grades>



## QEA Advisory Board Approves Funding for New Leaders Program in Duval County

At the December 2014 meeting of the QEA Advisory Board, members heard a presentation from representatives of the organization New Leaders. New Leaders is a national organization that specializes in providing training and professional development for school leaders. New Leaders has worked in school districts across the country to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of both principals and assistant principals. After hearing the formal New Leaders presentation, as well as reviewing the proposed activities for Duval County, the board unanimously approved an investment of up to \$800,000.

New Leaders will implement their Emerging Leaders Program, which is designed to cultivate the leadership skills of assistant principals and put them on the path to principalship while building leadership capacity across the entire district. Up to 40 assistant principals, both in QEA schools and in other schools across the district, will be selected to participate in this program. This program meets the school district's strategic priority of developing great leaders.

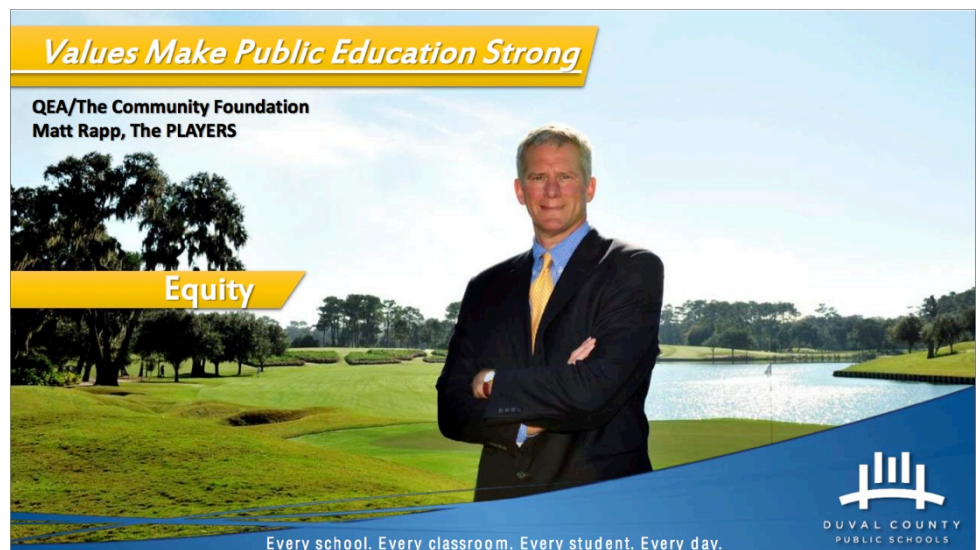
## Quality Education for All Fund recognized at Superintendent Vitti's State of the Schools Address

The Quality Education for All Fund and its donors were recognized at the State of the Schools address held at the University of North Florida on Tuesday, March 10.

Matt Rapp, Executive Director of THE PLAYERS, was presented with an award in recognition of and thanks for the contributions the QEA Fund has made to improving equity in Duval County Public Schools.

Superintendent Vitti presented awards in each of the five core value areas of the district's strategic plan: excellence, integrity, innovation, equity, and collaboration.

During the State of the Schools address, Dr. Vitti highlighted the progress and achievements that



have been made possible by the funding from the QEA donors. He also emphasized the increasing graduation rate in Duval County and a continued focus on great teachers and leaders.

To see a PDF of the State of the Schools presentation, visit [http://www.duvalschools.org/cms/lib07/FL01903657/Centri city/Domain/4/2015\\_SOTS-FINAL.PDF](http://www.duvalschools.org/cms/lib07/FL01903657/Centri city/Domain/4/2015_SOTS-FINAL.PDF)

## Investors in the Quality Education for All Fund

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 PGA Tour, Inc. on behalf of  
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