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



DARRYL L. WHITE, II



QEA Teacher Among Top Five Finalists for Duval Teacher of the Year

Darryl White, a 7th grade English/Language Arts teacher at Matthew Gilbert Middle School, was one of the top five finalists for Teacher of the Year in Duval County. White and the other four finalists were celebrated during the 25th Anniversary EDDY Awards, which was held March 9.

White is the third teacher from a QEA school in the last two years to be named a top five finalist. Mr. White, a Teach for America Jacksonville alumni, holds a bachelors and masters degree from Syracuse University and a doctorate degree from the University of North Florida.

White is a phenomenal teacher who is able to reach his most struggling students as well as the most motivated, all in the same class period. His dedication to his students does not stop in the classroom; he serves as the school's athletic director as well. In that role, he works hard to ensure that the athletes know that they are students first and athletes second. He encourages his students to receive tutoring in areas in which they are struggling and checks in with teachers to be sure his athletes are behaving as model students.

Mr. White credits support from his fellow teachers and principal as

well as his youth and willingness to take risks for his success thus far.

"Because I am a young teacher, it is easy for me to relate to my students and to try new things with them. It is an advantage," said Mr. White.

While he did not win the coveted title of Florida Blue Teacher of the Year 2016, Darryl White is a rising star within our district and his impact is felt in his classroom every day.





New Cohort of Summer Principals Academy Fellows Selected for 2016-2017 School Year

Four Duval County teachers have been selected to participate in the Summer Principals Academy (SPA) at Columbia University beginning this summer. The SPA Fellowship is sponsored each year by the Quality Education for All Fund and is geared towards creating a pathway to leadership for high-performing teachers serving in the targeted Raines, Ribault and Jackson high school feeder patterns.

This will be the fourth cohort of SPA Fellows to enter the coveted program. To date, eight fellows have been accepted into the SPA program, and four of those are currently serving as Assistant Principals in QEA schools in the district.

The new fellows come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Willie Brewster, a teacher at Rutledge Pearson Elementary, was selected as the Teacher of the Year for his school in 2016. LaToya Raines is an English/Language Arts teacher from

Ribault High School who is currently in her third year teaching. Brandie Stallings, a veteran teacher also from Ribault High, has been serving as the reading coach at that school. And Terrel Campbell is a third year teacher from Matthew Gilbert Middle. Three of the four new Fellows are Teach for America alumni.

The SPA Fellows are excited to begin their journey towards high-quality leadership. As a part of the program, they not only will complete rigorous coursework at Columbia University in New York, but will also be paired with an experienced school leader for the 2016-2017 school year as an Administrative Resident.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime," said LaToya Raines. "I can't wait to learn and grow as a leader so that I can have an impact on an entire school in the same way that I have impacted my own

QEA Fund in the news

The Florida Times-Union

<http://jacksonville.com/business/columnists/2016-01-08/story/guest-column-duval-school-system-renovations-are-taking-shape>

WJCT

<http://news.wjct.org/post/duval-schools-help-assistant-principals-adopt-more-hands-role>

<http://news.wjct.org/post/duval->

[teachers-told-they-were-getting-bonuses-they-didn-t-qualify](#)

Jacksonville Daily Record

http://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/s/howstory.php?Story_id=546755

Mid-Year Glance at QEA Fund Investments Shows Emerging Progress and Potential

Superintendent Nikolai Vitti presented a mid-year snapshot of each Quality Education for All Fund investment to the Advisory Board during the March board meeting.

Dr. Vitti's presentation outlined the progress being made in multi-year programs, such as the performance incentives for high-performing teachers and Teach for America.

The findings, outlined below, show progress in positive directions, but also areas for potential growth and deeper impact.

The QEA Advisory Board will continue to assess each investment at key points during the year, both through district analysis as well as the formal external QEA portfolio evaluation.

Performance Incentives:

- Steady increases in the concentration of high performing reading and math teachers in QEA schools

- Decreased percentage of staff turnover in QEA schools

Teach For America:

- Steady increase in 3rd year retention rates for corps members in Jacksonville
- Over 50 percent of TFA corps members placed in QEA schools

Reading Interventionists:

- The percentage of students showing 1 year of growth in reading is higher among those working with reading interventionists than those not
- In K-2, students seen by an interventionist have a 1 year growth rate that is 10 percent higher than their counterparts without interventionists

2016-2017 QEA Grants Approved

Name of Investment	2016-2017 Amount Approved
Incentives for High-Performing Teachers	\$5,102,500
Teach for America Jacksonville	\$1,500,000
Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program	\$982,000
Jacksonville School Leadership Fellowship (Summer Principals Academy)	\$257,260
Data Portal System	\$3,000,000



Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program Hosts Annual Selection Day for New Prospects

On April 1, the Jacksonville Teacher Residency (JTR) program hosted its annual selection day event at the University of North Florida College of Education. Each year, prospective candidates for the residency program gather in Jacksonville for an intensive one and a half day selection process designed to give a glimpse of how they would perform under the pressures of urban teaching. This year, 19 eager applicants attended selection day in hopes of becoming one of the next JTR residents in Duval County.

The festivities began with a reception on Thursday, March 31st at the Herbert University Center. Program Directors Dr. Chris White and Dr. Wanda Lastrapes welcomed the candidates to Jacksonville and gave an overview of the program. Also in attendance were several Duval County public schools administrative staff, professors and other UNF staff, partners from the Jacksonville Public Education Fund and other community stakeholders.

“This program is one of the most impactful initiatives of the Quality Education for All Fund. We are excited to see what you all will do next,” said Trey Csar, president of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

The following day, the real business of selection day began. A pre-selected group of raters, comprised of various education advocates and professionals from across the city, spent the day interacting with the candidates and observing them, including during a mock teaching exercise in their respective subject areas. The prospective residents were rated on everything from content knowledge and classroom delivery to confidence and cultural competency. But the most crucial characteristic for these applicants is passion and dedication.

“The pedagogy can be taught,” said Dr. White. “Between the district and UNF, we can make sure that the content is there. But what we can’t teach is passion and sincere love for teaching. That is the x-factor; that is what we are looking for.”

The new cohort of JTR residents will be selected in the coming weeks. The QEA Advisory Board has approved funding for up to 20 new residents for the 2016-2017 school year. Currently there are 11 residents working in QEA schools and 9 alumni of the program who are working as teachers of record in science and math.

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