

School Board Honors Administrators of Year and Employee of Year

Angie Walker, Tolar Griffin, Amy Bryan, and Jollivet Holmes are recognized

August 20, 2018

Wakulla County Schools' Administrators of the Year and Employee of the Year for 2017-2018 were honored at the August 20 School Board Meeting.

District-Level Administrator of the Year is Angie Walker, Executive Director of Human Resources.

School-Level Administrators of the Year are Principal Tolar Griffin and Assistant Principal Amy Bryan from Wakulla Middle School.

Employee of the Year is Jollivet Holmes, who is a CDA (Child Development Associate) at Wakulla Pre-Kindergarten.

Executive Director of Human Resources Angie Walker was voted District-Level Administrator of the Year by both school and district administrators who work with her every day. She enters her 33rd school year as an educator.

"Angie Walker plays an important role as HR Director by helping administrators find the right people to fill their school's personnel needs," says Superintendent Pearce. "She works with all of our new hires, and helps our experienced employees navigate changes in the workplace, among many other duties."

Walker graduated from the University of Central Florida and began her career teaching 7th grade English for 5 years in Seminole County.

For the next 15 years, she called Wakulla Middle School home. She taught Technology for 12 of those years, and was appointed as WMS Media Specialist for her last 3 years there.

In 2007, she moved to Crawfordville Elementary to start her career as an administrator. Walker spent one year as Assistant Principal at Crawfordville Elementary School before taking on the CES Principal job for the next 9 years.

Notes former Superintendent David Miller, who appointed Walker as principal, "Her rapport with staff, students and parents earned her the reputation as a caring and high-performing administrator."

In her third year of running the Human Resources Department, Walker says she loves being a part of the Wakulla County school system. "I wake up enthused to go to work because of the people I work with now, as it was at CES and WMS. The Wakulla School District employees have in common the love of helping children, and it translates into kindness and caring towards each other."

Wakulla Middle School Principal Tolar Griffin and Assistant Principal Amy Bryan were voted School-Level Administrators of the Year by their peers. Wakulla Middle School earned an "A" rating for the 2017-2018 school year.

An FSU graduate, WMS Principal Tolar Griffin began his career as a middle school Social Studies teacher for 5 years, then worked as a Curriculum Specialist for 2 more years, all in Leon County. He spent the

next 2 years as the Drop-out Prevention Coordinator and Principal of Taylor County's Tech Learning Center.

Appointed as Assistant Principal at Wakulla Middle School in 2009, Griffin was hired by then WMS Principal Mike Barwick. "Tolar Griffin has played an important role in Wakulla Middle School's success," says Wakulla High Principal Barwick. "He works on making positive connections with his students, parents, and staff."

Says Griffin, "My favorite part of being principal at WMS is having the honor of working with such outstanding students and staff. Their hard work and dedication are the reason Mrs. Bryan and I were able to accept this award. We have great students here in Wakulla County. I learned from administrators like Mr. Pearce and Mr. Barwick to provide students with a top tier education by hiring extraordinary teachers and staff."

Assistant Principal Amy Bryan of Wakulla Middle joins Griffin as School-Level Administrator of the Year. She brings experience to the WMS administrative job from both the classroom and after school sports.

An FSU graduate, she began working with children and families at the First Words Center for Autism.

In 2004 she was hired at WMS and taught math, science, and social studies to 6th and 7th graders. In addition, she helped coach soccer, basketball, and softball over the years, plus served as cheerleading coach for 10 years.

In addition, she served as the WMS Athletic Director and Yearbook sponsor, among many other leadership experiences she has had.

Says WMS Principal Griffin, "She maintains a positive, student-centered approach that parents and students alike respond to."

Adds Bryan, "I am honored to receive this award, however it should really be a school award. It would not be possible without our awesome administrative team, our fantastic staff and our wonderful teachers who put in extra hours to engage our students. We are just there to support them and do what we can to give them what they need."

The Wakulla School District Employee of the Year is Jollivet Holmes from Wakulla Pre-Kindergarten.

A product of Wakulla County Schools, "Ms. Jolli", as she's called at Pre-K, attended Shadeville Elementary, Sopchoppy Elementary, and graduated from Wakulla High School when it housed grades 7 through 12.

She then earned her CDA (Child Development Associate) certification in order to work at the Wakulla Pre-K where she has taught since 1987.

"I love working with children," Holmes says. "It has always been a passion ever since I was young. As a child, I would gather all my younger cousins and neighbor children and teach them in the side yard. Occasionally I will run into students from this make-believe classroom who remembered me teaching them how to write their names and count."

Notes Pre-K Principal Laura Kelley, “Ms. Jolli is such a positive force and experienced CDA who knows the developmental milestones of young children very well. With more than 30 years of sharing her love and talents with our littlest learners in the school system, I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this honor.”

Superintendent Bobby Pearce and the School Board members presented plaques to these four for their positive impact on the children of Wakulla County Schools in 2017-2018.

Said Superintendent Pearce, “We are proud of the work you four have done and the work you will continue to do that positively impacts our students, parents, and whole community. Thank you for always going the extra mile. Your colleagues, friends, and families came here tonight to show their support for you. It is a tribute to you that you packed the Board Room. They are here because they know how much effort you put into helping our children thrive.”