



News Release

Broward County Public Schools

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

600 SE Third Avenue

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

browardschools.com

754-321-2300 • 754-321-2616

DATE: March 2, 2016

CONTACTS: Dr. Carolyn Stewart, Public Information Office, 754-321-2300
Nadine Drew, Public Information Office, 754-321-2300

Six Principals Announced as Finalists for Broward County Public Schools 2016 Principal of the Year



Congratulations to the six outstanding Broward County Public Schools principals named as finalists for the District's 2016 Principal of the Year. The finalists – three elementary school principals, one middle school principal and two high school principals – now compete to become the District's top education leader. The winner will be announced during the Centennial Caliber Awards recognizing outstanding employees on **Friday, April 1, 2016, at 6 p.m., at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center.**

The Centennial Caliber Awards presenting and title sponsor is BrightStar Credit Union. Also supporting the Centennial Caliber Awards are platinum sponsor Bank of America, gold sponsor After School Programs, Inc., silver sponsors Pearson and Sunshine Child Care, copper sponsors Grand Canyon University and JC White, and bronze sponsor Catapult Learning.

Congratulations to Broward County Public Schools 2016 Principal of the Year Finalists:



Dr. Jermaine Fleming, Principal, Nova Middle School

As a leader, Jermaine Fleming's priority is building capacity. He believes that finding and developing the best teachers and administrators are critical components of the academic culture. Fleming also believes that middle school students can benefit from more rigorous courses and high school credit courses, such as law studies, debate, industry certification in Adobe Photoshop, and a variety of enrichment courses, which are part of his school's offerings. In four years as principal at Nova Middle, Fleming has used his leadership skills to recruit and develop other educators and administrators.



Dr. Lewis Jackson, Principal, Dania Elementary School

An advocate for students, Lewis Jackson views the role of principal as instrumental to the culture of education and student achievement. When he became principal of Dania Elementary, his primary challenge was to rebuild staff morale and stakeholder involvement, while striving for greater achievement for all students. Jackson believes high-quality personnel almost always trump programs. In addition to developing a strong team at Dania Elementary, he shares his passion and professionalism by teaching aspiring leaders, and serves as a mentor and coach to other principals.

– More –

**Dr. Karlton Johnson, Principal, Blanche Ely High School**

When Karlton Johnson arrived at Blanche Ely High eight years ago, enrollment was declining, the physical facility was in poor condition and students were not engaged. His goal was to transform the school to create a stronger community, and to help students embrace their educational opportunities. Since 2010, the school has improved its state letter grade from a C to an A. Enrollment has increased and dual enrollment has grown, as well. The overall graduation rate at Blanche Ely High is now the highest in school's history at 90 percent, and the graduation rate for black male students is the second highest in the District. Ninety-six percent of Blanche Ely High magnet students attend four-year colleges and universities, and many earn scholarships.

**Ernie Lozano, Principal, James S. Hunt Elementary School**

Recognizing school grade data was on a downward trend, Ernie Lozano introduced a new leadership style to James S. Hunt Elementary where top-down management, desks lined in rows and teachers using worksheets directed student learning. Over a four-year period, teachers today collaboratively facilitate leadership and student learning. Reading, writing, math and science scores and proficiencies have increased significantly. Visible and involved with teachers, students and families, Lozano also leads by example among his peers. He serves as a mentor and shares best practices with District programs.

**Jon Marlow, Principal, Deerfield Beach High School**

A visible and trustworthy visionary, Jon Marlow's focus is on the future of Deerfield Beach High. He created a climate for academic excellence and social development. Marlow implements programs that foster emotional, physical and academic well-being for all students. He has achieved this at Deerfield Beach High by reversing poor performance and finding solutions for problems associated with student behavior. The school has improved its state letter grade from a C to an A in 2015, and its graduation rate has increased significantly.

**Elaine L. Saef, Principal, Panther Run Elementary School**

Elaine Saef views her role as principal as one of removing barriers and providing essentials, while leading and inspiring teachers to teach and students to learn. During her tenure at Panther Run Elementary, she created two signature programs: *Pay it Forward* and *What I Am Makes A Difference*. These award-winning innovations are unique school strengths and are effective in developing a caring culture in the school and community. She has developed a positive school culture that effectively puts students first, emphasizes academics, and builds teacher trust and adaptability.

###

ABOUT BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE – Established 1915**

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is the sixth largest public school system in the United States and the second largest in the state of Florida. BCPS is Florida's first fully accredited school system since 1962. BCPS has nearly 270,000 students and approximately 175,000 adult students in 238 schools, centers and technical colleges, and 103 charter schools. BCPS serves a diverse student population. Students are from 204 different countries and speak 135 different languages. For more information about BCPS and the Centennial Celebration, visit browardschools.com, follow BCPS on Twitter [@browardschools](https://twitter.com/browardschools), like BCPS on Facebook at facebook.com/browardschools, and download the free BCPS mobile app.