



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 20, 2020

Contact Meghan Everette
Phone 251.533.9269
Email ELASCDaffiliate@gmail.com
Website ELASCD.org

MEEKS ANNOUNCED AS INAUGURAL EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNER

Veteran Educator Dedicated to Fostering the Whole Child During Pandemic

Memphis, TN, August 20, 2020 – Tennessee principal Dr. Renee Meeks has been awarded the inaugural ASCD Emerging Leader Alumni Affiliate Excellence in Education Award. This annual award is given in recognition of Meek’s outstanding commitment to the Whole Child.

“The Whole Child Initiative urges us to move beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic,” states Meeks. During the pandemic dismissal in March, Meeks initiated “pandemic announcements” building off traditional school announcements to bring stability to uncertain times. Meeks says, “I knew that I had to do something to engage our families to ensure they felt safe, engaged, and supported.”

Announcements were posted on social media, YouTube, and ClassDojo containing celebratory birthday messages, academic details, and connected families to gift and food card resources. Meeks implemented a drive-by day where students could pick up birthday “sprinkles” and pencils, even while dismissed from the traditional school setting. “I heard from a lot of parents that students were scared and missing school,” Meeks says of implementing these celebrations to add normalcy.

Meeks has served as the Principal of Sea Isle Elementary School since 2011 and has worked in Shelby County Schools for the last fourteen years. She is a 2015 ASCD Emerging Leader, serves as a Literacy Reviewer for the Tennessee Department of Education, and was previously awarded the Robert Turrell Caring and Compassion Principal of the Year.

The ASCD Emerging Leader Alumni Affiliate (ELASCD) is a non-geographically based affiliate dedicated to fostering educator leadership and leadership-building capacity among alumni of ASCD’s Emerging Leader program.

###

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Meghan Everette at 251-533-9269 or email at ELASCDaffiliate@gmail.com.