



NEWS IN EDUCATION

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Florence City Schools Superintendent Dr. Janet Womack Selected as Alabama's 2016 Superintendent of the Year

Montgomery, AL., October 14, 2015-- School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) and Classworks, an SSA Diamond Level Business Partner, are proud to announce the selection of Dr. Janet Womack as the 2016 Alabama Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Womack was selected from among eight other district finalists, each of whom is an outstanding superintendent. She will be honored at the SSA Superintendent of the Year Luncheon on February 2, 2016, held during the association's Legislative Conference in Montgomery. Classworks will provide Dr. Womack with a Superintendent of the Year ring plus travel expenses to the AASA National Conference on Education, to be held February 11 - 13, 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona. At the National Conference, she will receive a bronze medallion with the Superintendent of the Year emblem, and a plaque from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), SSA's national affiliate and national sponsor of this program. Each state's winner will be recognized during the opening General Session where the national winner will be announced.

While serving in many capacities within education during the last 23 years, Dr. Womack has served the last five years as Superintendent of the Florence City School System. Prior to her superintendency, she served as the Director of Student Assessment and Federal Programs, July 2007 - June 2010, in the Auburn City School System; and Director of East Alabama Regional Inservice Center, April 2006 - July 2007, with Auburn University. Early in Dr. Womack's career, she served in several positions within the Russell County School System. She served as the Director of Instruction, August 2000 - April 2006; High School Principal (Interim), 2005 - 2006; Middle School Principal (Interim), 2001; Elementary School Principal, 1997 - 2000; and 4th Grade Teacher, 1992 - 1997.

Dr. Womack holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching, an Administrative Certification in Educational Leadership, and a M.S. in Elementary Education, all from Auburn University. She earned her B.S. in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University.

Since Dr. Womack's tenure, outside funding and donations grew from \$160,400 (2006-2010) to over \$1,654,000 (2011-2014). According to Dr. Womack, funding occurred from having a set vision in place for the Florence City School System to become #1 in Alabama and among the top in the nation; the mission to "Empower Students to Explore, Create, Challenge, Innovate and Lead"; combined with proven results. Dr. Womack says, "This award is not about me -- instead it represents the students, faculty, staff, administrators, Board, parents and community who have caught the vision to innovate and create learning opportunities that will allow every student in Florence to achieve their goals and dreams." Results include:

	<u>2010 (Then)</u>	<u>2015 (Now)</u>
AP courses	14	20
Graduation rate	68% (2008)	95%
Dropout students	123	13

Continued on Page 2

Scholarship receipts per year	\$9.3M	\$14.1M
Athletic transportation budget	\$-0-	\$100,000
Athletic scholarships	7	21
AP exams taken	237	420
Teachers with advanced degrees	64%	70%
CTE credentials earned	50	113
12 for Life enrollment	24	93
Fine Arts courses (grades 9-12)	30	116
Student fights	58	17
iPads deployed	-0-	3,800
Enrollment	4,181	4,510
Local funding	38%	44%

The Florence City School System has become recognized as a leader in innovation and has won numerous state and national awards. Her district has committed to always doing what’s right for kids, and not necessarily what is convenient for adults. This is evident through the implementation of a successful 1-1 iPad initiative, the launching of the Florence Academy of Fine Arts, and the Florence Virtual High School.

“Dr. Womack is an excellent educator and will represent Alabama well on the national stage. Together with her team of educators in Florence and with the support of that wonderful community, she has led innovation and expanding opportunities for all students. We are so proud to have her representing us all in this role,” says Dr. Eric Mackey, SSA Executive Director.

Dr. Womack serves on the School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) Board of Directors and the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) Board of Directors. She is involved in her community and state through various committees and organizations in an effort to improve public education. Dr. Womack and her husband Keith have two children, Chase, age 17 and Lauren, age 13.

Nominations for this award were submitted and voted on by members in each SSA District. Each finalist is known as an outstanding leader and held in high regard by other superintendents as well as by his or her board, staff, community, and parents, and has distinguished himself or herself through stable leadership, innovative ideas, student achievement, or leading through difficult situations. All District Finalists were recognized earlier this week during the SSA Fall Conference in Florence, AL. Other Superintendent of the Year finalists include Dr. Aaron Milner, Saraland City; Mr. Don Willingham, Dallas County; Mrs. Becky Birdsong, Geneva County; Dr. Kelli Hodge, Chambers County; Mr. Randy Fuller, Shelby County; Mrs. Jenny Seals, St. Clair County; Dr. Paul McKendrick, Tuscaloosa City; and Dr. Casey Wardynski, Huntsville City. Each of these superintendents does an outstanding job and deserves the recognition through this program.

School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA) provides a united voice for superintendents in our state. SSA promotes public education in Alabama and the nation; is the leading advocate for children and youth in our state; provides a forum for discussion of educational issues; provides professional development for superintendents and their leadership team to promote the efficient and effective operation of the school system and the achievement of students; and is the organization for superintendents to influence policy makers and legislators.