

NEWS RELEASE

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Wayne County High School Principal named 2010 Mississippi Administrator of the Year

Jackson, Miss. - Wayne County High School Principal Billy Ray Jones Jr. has been named the 2010 Mississippi Administrator of the Year.

Billy Ray Jones has served as principal of Wayne County High School since 2007 and quickly developed a safe and orderly environment and began to re-culture the school into a "professional learning community." Jones developed a common mission, vision and list of commitments that educators and stakeholders agreed were vital to the success of the students. He used a three-step method that included; developing a safe and orderly environment, identifying strategies for classroom design and management and using data-driven information to improve student achievement.

"It is my personal belief that the most important things needed for learning to occur are for genuine, effective relationships and clearly defined high expectations to be in place," Jones said. "If there is anything that has served me well thus far, it is the fact that I have always treated all the students I have been charged with as my own and have always had very high expectations of all my students."

Jones' professional learning community concept has continued to sharpen the focus of instruction with the development of power standards, formative assessments and curriculum maps that are all horizontally and vertically aligned to the frameworks and taught at the appropriate depths of knowledge with the rigor and relevance needed to challenge students.

Jones recognizes that community involvement is essential to developing and maintaining a successful school. He has worked very closely with the school's adopters program, which partners with area businesses to furnish students with clothes and school supplies. He also works with the Lion's Club to supply students with glasses when it was apparent that many had poor vision. Finally, partnering with the youth court has helped to address students with behavioral problems in school, at home and in the community.

Jones has a degree from Southwest Mississippi Community College. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree from



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the University of Southern Mississippi. Jones is currently working on a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is married to Suzanne Jones and they have three children: Blade Craft, Caroline Jones and Trey Jones.

Other Congressional District Finalists include: Mitchell Shears (Alternate Administrator of the Year), principal of Clausell Elementary School in Jackson (Jackson Public School District), Christy Carroll, principal of Lawhon Elementary School in Tupelo (Tupelo Public School District) and Norman Session, principal of Pisgah High School in Sandhill (Rankin County School District).

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