



*Lisa Godwin with her kindergarten students.*

# STUDENTS

*Focus on*

## **NC's teachers deepen leadership skills at Ocracoke**

North Carolina Teacher of the Year Lisa Godwin, an Onslow County kindergarten teacher, was among participants in the “Teacher Leadership Institute: Teachers of the Year” program July 10–14 at Ocracoke.

Godwin joined North Carolina 2016–2017 Teachers of the Year from across the state to examine educational leadership.

“NCCAT, this week, has given me the confidence to lead and be a listener,” Godwin said. “This program has helped me focus on being a leader who responds to what the needs are. Everything I’ve learned this week has been a valuable lesson I can take into this year.”

The group of teachers impressed Godwin. “They are amazing,” she said. “It is like we’ve known each other forever. We all have the same purpose, and that is to grow children in educational knowledge. Everyone here puts children and students first. Whenever you have that kind of passion in one room, it is going to lead to good things.”

Godwin is now in her third year teaching at Dixon Elementary School in Holly Ridge, where she returned to the classroom in 2014. She is a mentor teacher at Dixon

Elementary, serves on the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee, and the district’s Quality Council.

Godwin worked in both Onslow and Lee county schools. She started in education in Sanford as a teacher assistant at Tramway Elementary School and later taught kindergarten at Deep River Elementary School.

She returned to the classroom after serving as an assistant principal at J. Glenn Edwards Elementary School in Sanford and Meadow View Elementary School in Jacksonville. “I truly missed the daily positive interaction with my classrooms of students and knew that I could be a great change agent from within,” Godwin wrote in her nomination submission for state Teacher of the Year.

Among the presenters, teachers heard from North Carolina Principal of the Year Jason Griffin of Hertford Grammar School in Perquimans County.

“I am truly honored to be here representing North Carolina,” Griffin said. “I’ve enjoyed networking with the great teachers who are here. In my role, I’ll be able to share what I’ve heard here with other teachers and leaders around the state.”

Alton Ballance led the program along with Bill Miller.

## Beginning teachers' opportunity coming in January



Open to teachers in their first, second, or third year of teaching, “Success from the Start: How to Survive and Thrive Your First Three Years in the Classroom” supports beginning teachers by strengthening their knowledge base and classroom expertise. The program begins with an in-depth examination of how to form productive student-teacher relationships, the foundation of all learning. Participants explore such pedagogical concerns as differentiated instruction, brain-compatible teaching, assessment, and the effect of poverty on achievement, always with the twin emphases of academic rigor and student engagement. Participants should come prepared to build professional competence and confidence, improve student achievement, and establish a statewide professional support network.

The program is led by NCCAT faculty member Dr. Deb Teitelbaum.

**“I think ‘Success from the Start: How to Survive and Thrive Your First Three Years in the Classroom’ should be a mandatory program for all new teachers.”**  
**Khadine Whitmore, a teacher in Durham Public Schools**

**14493 • Success from the Start:  
 How to Survive and Thrive Your First Three Years in the Classroom**

**When: January 8–12, 2018**

**Where: Ocracoke**

### Dr. Karen Sumner named Chief Academic Officer at NCCAT

Dr. Karen Sumner, Elementary Coordinator for the Western Region Education Service Alliance (WRESA) and veteran educator, has been named Chief Academic Officer.

In her new role, Sumner will be the administrative lead for the programming team. She will oversee NCCAT’s programming faculty in the design and implementation of offerings intended to provide the highest quality professional development for North Carolina public school educators. In collaboration with faculty and staff, Sumner will continue to develop and execute short- and long-term goals in NCCAT’s mission.

“Karen comes to us with a variety of educational and professional development experiences,” said Dr. M. Brock Womble. “We are excited that she is at NCCAT as the Chief Academic Officer to lead our professional development efforts.”

Sumner said joining NCCAT feels like a dream come true after being involved with the organization as a participant and presenter.

“I have come full circle from when I first attended, 20 years ago, to joining NCCAT today,” Sumner said. “NCCAT is a place that has always

been important to me. It is a place that helps educators grow, and being part of that mission is exciting. I feel all of my experiences have helped me prepare for this. I can’t wait to get started.”

Before working with WRESA, Sumner served as a Regional Education Facilitator with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. She served as an Instructional Coach in Henderson County Schools after teaching high school English both there and in New Hanover County.

Sumner earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Western Carolina University, her Master’s degree in English Education from Wake Forest University, and her B.A. from UNC-Asheville.



*Karen Sumner named  
 Chief Academic Officer*





# NCCAT Remembers

## Jean Paul Powell

October 4, 1918–May 16, 2017

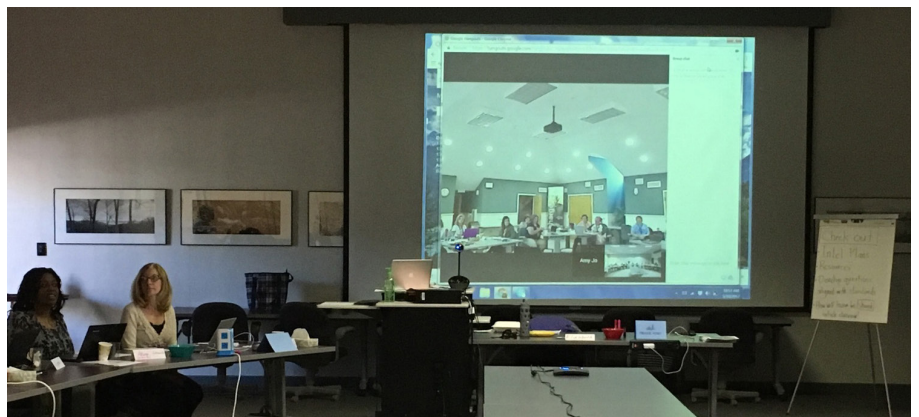
“We are deeply saddened by the death of Mrs. Jean Powell,” said Dr. M. Brock Womble. “I am glad to have had a chance to meet her personally; to see her great passion for North Carolina teachers and NCCAT. Our thoughts go out to her family. We will miss her dearly.”

In 1983, while serving as North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Powell was invited to address the Commission on Education and Economic Growth about physical improvements needed in schools. Mrs. Powell made the suggestion during her speech about the idea for NCCAT, which was later established by the North Carolina legislature.

Mrs. Powell’s four children established an NCCAT Honored Educator Scholarship in honor of their mother. The scholarship pays tribute to her lifelong commitment to the teaching profession. Her family has asked that memorials be made to NCCAT.

### Teachers Connect with Technology in Cullowhee and Ocracoke

A virtual Paideia discussion provided the platform for teachers to experience blended learning from two separate NCCAT campuses. Teachers in Elizabeth Joyce’s program “Designing Project Based Learning in Digital Format” group in Cullowhee and Amy Jo Spencer’s program “Literacy Strategies for 21st Century Teaching and Learning” group in Ocracoke, met online for an hour to experience learning that incorporated digital competencies and ELA standards. Using Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall” as the text and Google hangout as the vehicle, teachers engaged in a unique opportunity to learn perspectives and ideas from others while fostering a respectful and engaging environment for dialogue. This format for blended learning can be easily replicated for classroom use at all grade levels. Elizabeth and Amy Jo are looking forward to future virtual campus collaborations as they work together to design meaningful blended learning experiences for teachers.



## Rowan-Salisbury School teacher visits NCCAT from the Mountains to the Sea

Isenberg Elementary School teacher Anthony Johnson had positive experiences at both of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching campuses.

Johnson is the 2017 Southwest Regional Teacher of the Year. He attended “Moving from Consumers to Creators: Empowering the Digital Generation” at Cullowhee this year and later was part of the Teacher of the Year program at Ocracoke. He has taught elementary and middle school for the last 14 years, including 13 years in Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

During his time at NCCAT, he was part of a group of teachers from across North Carolina who discovered how to create learning experiences that take their students from being consumers to creators of digital content.

“The best part of this week has been the learning and the network of other teachers I have met who will be lifelong friends,” said Johnson, who teaches fourth and fifth-grade science and social studies. “The time to collaborate has been invaluable. Teachers should come to NCCAT. This is a tremendous experience.”



NCCAT alumna Sandra McMahan created a project “I Write My Story Inc.” after attending an NCCAT program. The idea was sparked during collaboration with faculty member Amy Jo Spencer. This inspiration later led to a visit to Cullowhee Valley School by the nationally-known musical group Summer Brooke & The Mountain Faith Band and by NFL player Malcolm Mitchell, designed to promote reading and writing.

### Connect with us

Visit our website [www.nccat.org](http://www.nccat.org) for a complete list of programs. We provide high-quality professional development on our campuses at Cullowhee and Ocracoke, online, and with visits to schools.



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