

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Submitted by Lesia Goodman, Director of Human Resources
Ashe County Schools

Lisa Sibaja Named 2017 Teacher of the Year for Ashe County Schools.

Students, central services staff, Phyllis Yates, Superintendent and Polly Jones, member of the Ashe County School Board surprised Lisa Sibaja, Ashe County Schools 2017 Teacher of the Year, with the announcement on May 10. Sibaja serves Mountain View Elementary as their teacher of English Language Learners. She came to Ashe County in August, 2015.

“This truly shows what a remarkable teacher, leader and person Mrs. Sibaja is that her fellow teachers would select her as a teacher of the year after only being in the school for less than two years,” stated one of the interview committee members. She has the ability to make a great impact on both her students and peers. Mrs. Sibaja states in her portfolio that her motivation is to help empower others to succeed. She strives to foster connections whereby students, teacher and families are excited to be part of Mountain View School.

One of Mrs. Sibaja students said, “I admire her hard work. She has inspired me to be a teacher. She is the best teacher ever.” A colleague within the school states that Mrs. Sibaja is the humblest person she has ever met. Students and teacher alike can easily detect her love for her job and students and her desire for their ultimate success.”

Sibaja has taught in North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia and Buenos Aires Argentina. Her years of experience total to nineteen. She began her career in the art classroom as an art educator. She holds a master’s degree in art education and additional studies in Spanish and English as a Second Language.

The teacher of the year at each school is selected by their teaching peers. Those nominated were Steve Scott, CTE teacher at Ashe High; George Zeller, language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle; Elizabeth Lauer, art teacher at Blue Ridge Elementary; Kevin Miller, PE teacher at Westwood Elementary and Lisa Sibaja, ESL teacher at Mountain View. The Ashe County Schools Teacher of Year is chosen through a process that includes a written portfolio and an interview. This year’s selection committee included members from the school and community. Those members were Jaydn Trivett, Alecia Giles, Sandra Peterson, Sheila Johnson, Kate Yates and Lawrence Goodman.

For more than 50 years our nation has honored teachers with the National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Voya Financial, Inc., is a

project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Since 1970, North Carolina has participated in this program recognizing outstanding teachers. The Teacher of the Year program provides an opportunity to honor and recognize exemplary teachers in North Carolina and to call attention to the importance of the teaching profession. Mrs. Sibaja will compete with teachers in the Northwest Region for the title of Region 7 Teacher of the Year in the fall.