

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share this:    



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tony Wood, Commissioner

March 13, 2015

CONTACT: Kimberly Friedman
PHONE: (501) 683-4788
kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov

Arkansas Leadership Academy Names New Master Principal

LITTLE ROCK — Cindy Dewey, having achieved the status of Master School Principal, was recognized at the Arkansas State Board of Education meeting today at the Arkansas Department of Education.

Dewey completed three years of rigorous professional development plus an additional year of performance evaluations to achieve the designation this spring from the Arkansas Leadership Academy's Master Principal Program. ADE Commissioner Tony Wood and Dr. Diana Peer, Master Principal leader, presented the award.

Dewey has been the principal of Willowbrook Elementary in Bentonville for three years. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Arkansas. With 10 years of experience as a school leader, she has a proven ability to manage projects, analyze data and stay current on latest research-based initiatives. Dewey is committed to engaging all stakeholders to create a safe, nurturing and academically challenging environment for every child.

"For schools to be at their best, they need the best leaders," Wood said. "Through the Arkansas Leadership Academy, this principal has strengthened her focus toward college and career readiness. She has set the vision and culture necessary to improve student achievement. We celebrate her success as a school leader and her recognition of the value of ongoing professional learning."

According to ALA Director David Cook, "Developing principals with the talent to lead complex organizations requires giving them a broad range of leadership experiences along the way. This rigorous, four-year program enables school leaders to enhance and accelerate student and adult learning. I commend Mrs. Dewey for being dedicated to her students, teachers and learning

communities. I also want to thank the Arkansas Legislature, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the academy's partners for their support and vision in building the leadership capacity of principals across our great state."

The Arkansas Leadership Academy is based in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas. The academy's Master Principal Program was authorized by Act 44 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the 2003 Arkansas General Assembly.

Phase I of the Master Principal Program is open to all school principals who have at least one year of experience and the support and permission of their superintendents to participate. Principals from across the state meet during the year in four multi-day sessions for intense study while applying the learning from those sessions in their schools throughout the year.

Admission to the second phase of the program requires submission of a portfolio documenting the application of the lessons learned from the first phase and the results of that work to improve student and adult learning in the school. To be admitted to the third phase, principals must complete a rigorous application process that includes evidence of their impact on education at the district, state and regional levels. These portfolios are evaluated by stakeholders in education from Arkansas as well as from out of state. Scorers receive training through the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

After successful completion of all three phases, principals may choose to participate in a rigorous assessment by a team of trained examiners with at least one member on each team from another state. The rigorous assessment process examines evidence from three primary sources:

- Student Performance: An analysis of student academic achievement data.
- Principal Performance: An analysis of a portfolio created by the principal.
- School Performance: A site visit to gather evidence.

Successful performance in these three areas qualifies an individual for Master School Principal status. Master principals receive a \$9,000 per year bonus for five years upon earning the designation. They are eligible for an additional \$25,000 per year for five years if they are selected to serve at a low-performing school.

Established in 1991, the Arkansas Leadership Academy is a nationally recognized statewide partnership of 15 universities; 9 professional associations; 15 educational cooperatives; the Arkansas Departments of Education, Higher Education, and Career Education; the Arkansas Educational Television Network; the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, Tyson Foods Inc.; Wal-Mart Stores Inc.; superintendent representatives; the Office of the Governor; and the State Board of Education - a total of 51 partners.

For more information, visit <http://www.arkansasleadershipacademy.org/>. or contact Dr. Diana Peer at the Arkansas Leadership Academy at dpeer@uark.edu or 479-575-3030.

Pictures of today's event are available at <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/communications/photo-gallery/album/58>.

Follow us on Twitter [@ArkansasEd](#).
Like us on Facebook at [Arkansas Department of Education](#).

ArkansasEd..rg

Arkansas Department of Education | Four Capitol Mall | Little Rock, AR 72201

This email was sent to bobbie.l.handcock@arkansas.gov. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using [TrueRemove](#)®.

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

