



NEWS RELEASE

Clayton County Public Schools

Department of Communications

For Immediate Release

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McGarrah's Lockhart announced as Clayton County's 2011 Teacher of the Year

JONESBORO – It was a morning full of excitement and surprise as Clayton County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year patrol made its last final stop of the selection season, visiting the classroom of the 2011 district wide honoree, **Fareedah Wright Lockhart of McGarrah Elementary School.**

Accompanied by members of the selection committee, school system administrators, an assortment of cameras, and bearing gifts, Bobbi Ford, a former district and state Teacher of the Year and coordinator of the process, congratulated Lockhart on being selected.

A fifth grade teacher with nine years of experience, Lockhart has been teaching at McGarrah since the beginning of the 2007-8 school year. She holds a bachelor's degree from Alabama A&M University, a master's degree from Central Michigan University, and a specialist's degree from Mercer University.

In her application packet, Lockhart points to a lifelong desire to work with children as a key factor in her career choice. She also noted that her own teachers, those that pushed her to excellence and those who created obstacles, played prominent roles in her decision process. "Teachers have more power than they realize," she wrote.

Lockhart now moves to the next level in the Teacher of the Year process. She must complete state application materials and await a decision by the state selection committee. The Georgia Teacher of the Year will be announced this spring.

Lockhart will be formally recognized as the 2011 Teacher of the Year by Clayton County Public Schools during a special program on November 18, 2010, at the Performing Arts Center at which time all 63 school-level Teachers of the Year will be honored.

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