



NC School Superintendents' Association & NC Alliance for School Leadership Development



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Recipients of Dr. Samuel Houston Jr. Leadership Award Announced

[The North Carolina School Superintendents' Association \(NCSSA\)](#) and the [North Carolina Alliance for School Leadership Development \(NCASLD\)](#) have announced the selection of the following as the recipients of the Dr. Samuel Houston Jr. Leadership Award:

- **Dr. Jason Atkinson**, Superintendent, Bladen County Schools
- **Dr. Marvin Bradley**, Chief Operating Officer, Beaufort County Schools
- **Dr. Letisha Judd-Manning**, Director of Elementary Education and Professional Development, Vance County Schools
- **Dr. Yvette Smith Mason**, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Professional Development, Wayne County Schools
- **Dr. Julie Spencer**, Assistant Superintendent for Research and Accountability, Durham Public Schools.



This annual award is presented to graduates of the NCSSA and the [NCASLD Aspiring Superintendent Program](#), a program which is designed to empower transformational education leaders for North Carolina's public schools.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel Houston who is President and Chief Executive Officer of the North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center. Dr. Houston served as superintendent of the Mooresville Graded School District for ten years where he opened the first year-round school in North Carolina. Dr. Houston has been a champion for strategic planning, student performance and accountability, meeting the needs of the 21st century workforce, skills for the STEM world, and building education partnerships. Dr. Houston also served as the first executive director of the University of North Carolina Center for Leadership Development.

Dr. Houston was awarded the Jay Robinson Leadership Award as an Exemplary Educator for his outstanding contributions to statewide public K – 12 education. He also earned the RJR-Nabisco Foundation's China Breaker Award for implementing educational change. He has been inducted into the Appalachian State University Reich College of Education's Rhododendron Society and the East Carolina University's Education Hall of Fame and has received the Distinguished Career Award from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro School of Education. He has also been inducted into the North Carolina School of Science and Math Hall of Fame.

NCSSA Executive Director Jack Hoke said, "Dr. Jason Atkinson, Dr. Marvin Bradley, Dr. Letisha Judd-Manning, Dr. Yvette Smith-Mason and Dr. Julie Spencer exemplify the traits that have guided Dr. Sam Houston's career in educational leadership. They have a commitment to continuous improvement, high standards of ethical conduct, strategic planning, improving student performance and meeting the needs of the 21st century workforce. I am very proud of these Dr. Samuel Houston Jr. Leadership Award winners and look forward to seeing them progress in their education career."

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