



(Back Row, Left to Right) David Freeman, Hamblen County; Laurie Norris, Kingsport City; Alyson Dowda, Kingsport City; Carol White, Washington County; Kelly Vance, Bristol City; Lorie Plank, Johnson County; David Timbs, Johnson City; Patrick Fraley, Greeneville City (Front Row, Left to Right) Tina Faust, TDOE; Gina Pavlovich, Niswonger Foundation; Vivian Franklin, Niswonger Foundation; Dominique Davis, Jefferson County

Leadership for Blended and Digital Learning (LBDL)

The Leadership for Blended and Digital Learning (LBDL) training program at North Carolina State University was the catalyst for developing a blended learning opportunity for Niswonger Consortium school systems. Blended learning, as defined by experts at the Christensen Institute, is a formal education program in which a student learns, (1. at least in part, through online learning; (2. at least in part in a “bricks and mortar” location outside the home; and (3. the modalities along each student’s learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience.

Ten regional educators, along with Niswonger Foundation staff members Vivian Franklin and Gina Pavlovich attended this training and developed the expertise to bring these skills back to the region. When the school leaders returned to their districts they were able to offer an LBDL blended course, which 33 principals were nominated, by their school system directors, to attend from across the First Congressional District.

The regional 2016-17 LBDL Principal Cohort began August 25, 2016 and ended April 6, 2017 with five districts hosting the course: Hamblen County Schools, Greeneville City Schools, Johnson City Schools, Kingsport City Schools, and Bristol City Schools.

Successful completion of the training by the 2016-17 Principal Cohort was celebrated on April 6 at the Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS). Attendees were greeted by school directors, Niswonger Foundation staff, and Foundation Board member, Nikki Niswonger, who also served as a judge for the group presentations. The selected winners received a \$100 stipend for their school. Appropriate to the venue at BMS, the successes of the Cohort members were celebrated at a *Winners Circle Awards Luncheon*.

The principals completed digital road maps for their school that will be a guide for the implementation of blended and digital learning. Principals that participated in the training, received Tennessee Academy for School Leaders (TASL) Credit for completing the LBDL training.



Presenters:

Dominique Davis	Jefferson County
Dr. David Freeman	Hamblen County

Laura Norris	Kingsport City
Carol White	Washington County
Kelly Vance	Bristol City
Dr. David Timbs	Johnson City
Lorie Plank	Johnson County
Patrick Fraley	Greeneville City
Tina Faust	Hawkins County
Alyson Dowda	Kingsport City
Gina Pavlovich	Niswonger Foundation
Vivian Franklin	Niswonger Foundation

Participants:

Amanda Weems	Greene County
Brandon McKee	Washington County
Cheri Long	Johnson County
Craig Day	Jefferson County
Denise McKee	Hawkins County
Dennis Wilds	Newport Grammar
Edna Miller	Johnson County
Erika Patterson	Washington County
Heather Boegemann	Greeneville City
Heather Wolf	Kingsport City
Janet Ricker	Greeneville City
Jennifer Whitson	Greene County
Kelli Seymour	Kingsport City
Kevin Cline	Jefferson County
Kristi Waltke	Jefferson County
Kyle Evans	Bristol City
Lori Allen	Hawkins County
Martha Kelly	Hamblen County
Maryann Davis	Hawkins County
Melinda Carr	Washington County
Michelle Walker	Jefferson County
Mike Fulkerson	Kingsport City
Nick Roebke	Kingsport City
Rachel Walk	Bristol City
Randy Watts	Kingsport City
Rhonda Winstead	Rogersville City
Shanna Hensley	Kingsport City
Stephanie Potter	Kingsport City
Todd Barnett	Johnson City
Tommy Arnold	Jefferson County
Travis Hurley	Elizabethton City