



## Arkansas Leadership Academy

### Upcoming Institutes:

**Master Principal Institute**  
P2S3—May 6-8, 2008  
P1S4—Jun. 10-13, 2008  
P1S1—Jul. 21-24, 2008

**Wynne Master Principal**  
P1S3—Apr. 28-30, 2008  
P1S4—Jun. 23-25, 2008

**Superintendent Institute**  
Session 4—May 6-7, 2008

**Teacher Institute**  
Forum 14, Session 4—  
Jun. 18-20, 2008  
Forum 15, Session 1—  
Aug. 4-7, 2008

**DKL Team Institute**  
Session 1—May 12-  
14, 2008  
Session 2—Jun. 9, 2008  
Session 3—Jul. 14, 2008

### Special points of interest:

- Academy selects five teams to pilot Deep Knowledge Leadership Team Institute.
- Search for new Academy Director commences.
- Master Principal Institute holds site visits for participants applying for Designation.
- Teachers prepare for final session of Teacher Institute.
- Principals from across the state apply for Phase I of the Master Principal Institute.

# Academy Action

May 2008

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## Principals Celebrate Master Principal Phase III Graduation



*Phase III principals display their graduation awards.*

Phase III of the Master Principal Institute wrapped up this month at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain on April 1-3. Nine principals graduated from Phase III and will be eligible to participate in the Designation piece of the program.

At this final session, the principals worked to connect student learning needs to adult needs and hone their vision for teaching and learning. They also reported the results of the action research projects they have been working on since last September. Projects included same gender classroom analysis; student opportunities for success in math; diversity and parent

relationships; effect of small learning teams on student achievement, attendance, and discipline; highly mobile students and academic success; and early intervention for low language students. Each principal's superintendent attended the final day of the session to learn about the principal's action research and to support Phase III graduation.

Principal graduates were **Rosie Coleman** of North Little Rock, **Michele French** of Cabot, **Mark Rash** of Sheridan, **Jackie Smith** of Pulaski County, **Karen Sullards** of Pulaski County, **Kimberly Truslow** of Pulaski County, **Peggy Walter** of Fort Smith, **Sonya Whitfield** of Pulaski County, and **Kay York** of Ashdown.

Superintendents who attended were **Benny Gooden** of Fort Smith, **Kaye Lowe**, Assistant, of North Little Rock, **Beverly Ruthven**, Interim, of Pulaski County, **Tony Thurman** of Cabot, **Scott Spainhour** of Sheridan, and **Mike Walker** of Ashdown.

## School Support Program Sees Success in Second Year

The School Support Program is nearing the end of its second year of working with four schools to build capacity and raise student achievement. The program had excellent results in raising student test scores in its first year, and expectations are high for continuing the upward trend this year.

The Teacher Leadership for Learning training has recently been implemented in each school, providing all teachers professional development based on the major concepts of the Academy's Teacher Institute. Professional Learning Communities have also been established in each of the schools to enhance the learn-

ing of all students in the classroom.

Three of the superintendents have attended the Academy's Superintendent Institute, all four principals have attended at least one phase of the Master Principal Institute, and many teachers from each school have participated in the Teacher Institute during the past two years.

School boards are progressing in their work and study on their role in improving learning for all students in their districts, in strategic planning based on core beliefs of the community, and in setting measurable goals to enhance learning. Leadership teams have been

established in each school to assist the principal in developing and implementing the school's educational plan, and professional development is now embedded throughout the school year and school day.

Year three of the program will continue to address the adult learning needs of the staff, to support each school's capacity to continue improving student learning, and to plan for educational excellence in the future. The Academy's School Support Team is continuing to identify and improve the process of systemic school improvement implementation based on experience from the program's initial two years.

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### Academy Staff

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Connecting People, Ideas, Perspectives, and Experiences.

A collaborative partnership  
housed at the University of  
Arkansas.



Secretary  
**Stephanie Westmoreland** works with Academy staff to prepare and staff institutes. She also updates the Academy database, handles institute evaluations, and processes Academy correspondence.



Project/Program Manager  
**Shirley Easley** is the Academy's office leader. She works with Academy accounts, general administration, and graphic design. She also helps staff and plan the Teacher Institute.



Executive Assistant  
**Marilyn Cain** works with the Academy Director and handles Academy reception and correspondence. She also helps staff and plan events for the Superintendent Institute.



Graduate assistant  
**Nicole Francis** works with the Academy Director and staff for research, writing, and editing. She also manages the Academy's success stories, history, newsletters, and proposals.



Associate Director  
**Paula Cummins** is the curriculum design specialist of the Academy. She works with institute training and supports Academy Partners and state initiatives.



Master Principal Leader  
**Debbie Davis** is the leader and facilitator of the Master Principal Institute. She also oversees Master Principal budgets, scoring, and performance coaching.



Administrative Assistant  
**Jackie Base** works with the Master Principal Leader to plan the Master Principal Institute. She also staffs the Master Principal institute and handles Academy technology.



School Support Leader  
**Chuck Leverett** is the leader and facilitator of the School Support Program. He oversees the School Support budget, staffing, and board and capacity building team meetings.



Teacher Institute Leader  
**Michele Linch** is the leader and facilitator of the Teacher Institute. She also helps with Academy institute re-design and works with the School Support Program.



Director **Beverly Elliott** is the leader and visionary of the Academy. She works with Academy Partners, legislators, and state and national relations. She also manages the Superintendent Institute.

## Meet the Arkansas Leadership Academy Staff