



## Academy Designates Three New Master School Principals



2010 Master School Principals: Peggy Walter, Fairview Elementary in Fort Smith; Maribel Childress, Monitor Elementary in Springdale; and Marguerite Hillier, College Hill Elementary in Texarkana

The Academy, in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education, designated three new Master School Principals last month who were recognized at the Arkansas State Board of Education meeting at the Arkansas Department of Education on April 12th. Maribel Childress, principal of Monitor Elementary School in Springdale; Marguerite Hillier, principal of College Hill Elementary School in Texarkana; and Peggy Walter, principal of Fairview Elementary School in Fort Smith, each completed three years of rigorous professional development plus additional performance evaluations to graduate from the Academy's Master Principal Program. Tom Kimbrell, Arkansas Commissioner of Education; Diana Peer, Master Principal Leader; and Debbie Davis, Director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy, presented awards of distinction to the principals. "I congratulate these individuals for pursuing excellence in their careers as educational leaders," Kimbrell said. "This training above and beyond licensing requirements for school administrators will indeed benefit these fine principals and, even more importantly, the teachers and students in the schools where they serve." Master Principals receive a \$9,000 per year bonus for five years upon earning the designation and are eligible for an additional \$25,000 per year for five years if they are selected to serve at a low-performing school.

Interested in learning more about the Master Principal Program? Check out our website at: [www.arkansasleadershipacademy.org](http://www.arkansasleadershipacademy.org)

## Meet the New Master School Principals!



*"The knowledge and skills I have obtained through this process have enabled me to be a more effective and efficient building leader. I highly encourage principals across the state to participate in*

*the Master Principal Program. Every activity, every assignment throughout the program is relevant to what we as building leaders do every day."* Peggy Walter has served as the principal at Fairview Elementary School in Fort Smith since 1996. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a Master's degree in Elementary Education, and a Specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. Prior to Fairview, Walter served as assistant principal at Woods and Tilles Elementary Schools, a Title I reading teacher, and a classroom teacher at Spradling Elementary, all in Fort Smith.



*"The Master Principal Program is the most valuable professional development experience of my career. The learning experiences are rigorous and relevant to our work as building administrators. It has had a life-changing impact on my*

*skills as a leader as well as the way I look at educational systems. I highly recommend the experience for every building administrator!"* Maribel Childress has been an elementary principal for the Springdale School District since 1999. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Master's degree in Elementary Counseling from Louisiana Tech University. She also holds an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She was formerly a teacher and assistant principal in the Springdale School District and a teacher for the Lincoln Parish School District in Ruston, Louisiana.



*"Achieving Master Principal designation is one of the highlights of my career. As a principal, I believe it is important to be a continuous learner, always reflecting and striving to improve myself and my school. The Master Principal Program provided me knowledge and*

*skills to move my school from good to great. I feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity."* Marguerite Hillier has been the principal at College Hill Elementary in Texarkana since 2005. She previously served 16 years as principal at Trice Elementary. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Henderson State University and a Master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from East Texas State University at Texarkana. Prior to College Hill, Hillier served as the instructional supervisor at Trice Elementary in Texarkana, a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Washington Intermediate School, and a math teacher at North Heights Junior High.