

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Submitted by Lesia Goodman, HR Director, Ashe County Schools

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS ODDIE COX TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS** – Teacher of Year for the 2016-2017 school year was named Wednesday, April 27, 2016. Mrs. Jodi Grubb, exceptional children’s teacher at Ashe County Middle School, was surprised by Dr. Holden, Superintendent of Ashe County Schools, along with other administrators from Ashe County Schools Central Office and her family with the announcement. Her class of students, along with other students in the system, were at Pizza Hut having lunch. She had just taken her students to Ashe County High School to practice in preparation for the county’s Special Olympics which will take place on May 3. Her students were elated.

She was selected by a team of school system personnel and community leaders. During her interview Mrs. Grubb stated, “We do not assume inability in our students – we assume they all can learn. Every child learns differently and you must know your individual kids to be an effective teacher”. Her everyday motto is: We all are more alike than we are different! Ann Combs, Mrs. Grubb’s exceptional children’s teacher assistant, declared that “Jodi is one of the most kind hearted, loving people she knows. Her charisma is contagious. Her teaching methods are new and original and individualized to each student. The love and compassion she shows to her students is also shown to anyone she meets”. Holly McClure, another exceptional children’s teacher at the middle school explained, “Mrs. Grubb is one of the most selfless teachers I have ever worked with. Her upmost concern is always the needs of her students. She goes above and beyond to help her students find their voice and excel to their fullest potential”. “When it comes to the exceptional population of students, some people just get it. They instinctively connect with kids in a way that goes beyond the ordinary. Jodi Grubb is that teacher who intentionally seeks to encourage and strengthen the hearts of her students. Though many people focus on someone’s disability or inability, Jodi sees only their possibility. She is a visionary, continuously on that quest to truly see into a child’s heart and do whatever it takes for that child to reach his or her full potential” explained Alecia Giles, another teacher in the exceptional children’s department at Ashe Middle.

Mrs. Grubb began her career in Shelby, NC and was employed with Ashe County Schools as an exceptional children’s teacher at Northwest Ashe in August, 1998. She still teaches at the same site but better known to our community as Ashe County Middle School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Teaching Fellow and completed her Master’s Degree in Special Education at UNC Charlotte. She is currently in the final stages of completing a doctorate program and expectations to confirm this endeavor is this spring. Mr. Dustin Farmer, principal of Ashe County Middle School say, “Words cannot express what Mrs. Grubb means to ACMS. What she accomplishes with students in her classroom is phenomenal and cannot be measured by a standardized test. She is genuine in everything she does and is a huge advocate for the exceptional children’s population. She thinks outside the box in her classroom and is never satisfied, always researching new ways to increase student learning. As great as he is in the classroom, she is an even

better person. We are so proud of Mrs. Grubb and her accomplishments. We support her as she moves on to the regional and hopefully, state level”.

For more than 50 years our nation has honored teachers with the National Teacher of the Year Program. The National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Voya Financial, Inc., is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Since 1970, North Carolina has participated in this program recognizing outstanding teachers. The Teacher of the Year program provides an opportunity to honor and recognize exemplary teachers in North Carolina and to call attention to the importance of the teaching profession. Mrs. Grubb will compete with teachers in the Northwest Region for the title of Region 7 Teacher of the Year in the fall.

The Ashe County Schools Teacher of the Year is chosen from among each school’s Teacher of the Year. For the 2016-2017 school year, the Ashe County High School Teacher of the Year is Alex Rollins, biology teacher. The Teacher of the Year for Blue Ridge Elementary School is Katina Wilcox who teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Lori Hensley, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Mountain View and Monica Jane “Janie” Riffle, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, at Westwood Elementary will represent their schools respectfully. Congratulations to all these teachers!