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Contact: Robyn Brunson
Communications Coordinator
Telephone: (706) 453-7688 ext. 2247
Cell phone: (706) 817-6014
Email: Robyn.Brunson@greene.k12.ga.us
Website: www.greene.k12.ga.us

Greene County Schools Superintendent, Teacher receive top honors at NABSE conference

GREENSBORO – Greene County School System Superintendent Dr. Barbara Pulliam Davis and Greene County High School social studies teacher Rotonya Rhodes received awards at the 2010 Annual National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) awards dinner. The awards ceremony was part of a three day national conference that drew thousands of educators and administrators from across the country.



Superintendent Davis received the **Joseph E. Hill Superintendent of the Year Award**. The award is bestowed upon current Superintendents who have demonstrated a quality of leadership that resulted in significant positive outcomes for students of African descent.

Davis became Superintendent of Greene County Schools in 2008. During her first six months, she worked with the Board of Education to improve community relations, organize and prioritize the ELOST Projects and renovation work, and began working with parents and community to get the school system's Strategic Plan developed.

Her career in education began as a high school teacher in a small school district in Parchment, Michigan. Over the years she served as a high school principal and central office administrator prior to becoming Associate Superintendent. She has worked as Senior Associate for Education and Non-Profit Programs at the Center for the Creative Learning in Greensboro, North Carolina and Director of School Support Service in the Chicago Public Schools, working with 223 of the lowest performing elementary schools to develop programs to increase student achievement.

Her career as Superintendent began in 1997, when she was selected to be the Superintendent of the St. Louis Park School District in Minnesota. She left Minnesota in 2004, becoming the first woman ever to become Superintendent of the Clayton County Schools in Jonesboro.

She has developed language immersion schools in two school districts as focused magnet and charter schools in her career. Over the years, she has received millions of dollars in grant money for educational programs, including a grant from the Nabisco Foundation and the Sara Lee Corporation, recently receiving a \$2.3 million grant for Greene County Schools. She also was responsible for implementing the first dual language immersion school (charter) in the state of Georgia in 2006.

She believes that every child has a right to the highest quality education that we can provide them, and she works passionately to ensure that students will receive the education they deserve.



Rhodes received the **Mary McLeod Bethune Outstanding Teacher Award**. The award is presented to teachers whose innovative teaching techniques have led to an increase in student achievement through demonstrating unparalleled commitment and innovation toward enhancing the quality of instruction.

Rhodes attended Georgia College and State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. She later earned a Master of Arts Degree in teaching Secondary Education from Georgia College and State University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Social Studies Education from the University of Georgia in Athens.

“Returning to my alma mater to teach economics has been a blessing for me because it has allowed me the opportunity to inspire my students to reach for the stars while reminding them daily that there is no greater joy than service to your community,” said Rhodes.

In 2007, Rhodes became the Chair of the high school's social studies department. Also, during her first five years of teaching, she moved the high school's End-of-Course Test (EOCT) scores in Economics from 27 percent passing to over 80 percent passing. In the past two years, Rhodes' students have scored 100 percent passing on this same End-of-Course Test.

Rhodes has been named the Greene County School System Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010; the Greene County High School Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010; Georgia Council on Economic Education—Economics Teacher of the Year Finalist for 2009-2010 and the Greene – Putnam County Rotary Teacher of the Month in 2009.