



**North Carolina School  
Superintendents' Association  
and the  
Alliance for School Leadership  
Development**



For Immediate Release: October 15, 2020

The North Carolina School Superintendents' Association (NCSSA) and the North Carolina Alliance for School Leadership Development (NCASLD) has announced the selection of the following as the recipients of the **Dr. Samuel Houston Jr. Leadership Award; Dr. Frank Creech, Chief Academic Officer, Greene County Schools; Dr. Michael Myrick, Assistant Superintendent, Granville County Schools; Dr. Theresa Perry, Director of Professional Development, Cumberland County Schools; and Dr. La'Ronda Whiteside, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Hickory City Schools.** This annual award is presented to graduates of the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association and the North Carolina Alliance for School Leadership Development's Aspiring Superintendent Program, a program which is designed to empower transformational education leaders for North Carolina's public schools.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel Houston who is President and Chief Executive Officer of the North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center. Dr. Houston served as superintendent of the Mooresville Graded School District for ten years where he opened the first year-round school in North Carolina. Dr. Houston has been a champion for strategic planning, student performance and accountability, meeting the needs of the 21st century workforce, skills for the STEM world and building education partnerships. Dr. Houston also served as the first executive director of the University of North Carolina Center for Leadership Development.

Dr. Houston was awarded the Jay Robinson Leadership Award as an Exemplary Educator for his outstanding contributions to statewide public K – 12 education. He also earned the RJR-Nabisco Foundation's China Breaker Award for implementing educational change. He has been inducted into the Appalachian State University Reich College of Education's Rhododendron Society and the East Carolina University's Education Hall of Fame and has received the Distinguished Career Award from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro School of Education. He has also been inducted into the North Carolina School of Science and Math Hall of Fame.

NCSSA Executive Director Jack Hoke said, "Dr. Creech, Dr. Myrick, Dr. Perry and Dr. Whitesides exemplify the traits that have guided Dr. Sam Houston's career in educational leadership. They have a commitment to continuous improvement, high standards of ethical conduct, strategic planning, improving student performance and meeting the needs of the 21st century workforce. I am very proud of these Dr. Samuel Houston Jr. Leadership Award winners and look forward to seeing them progress in their education career."