

APPENDIX O

Beginning Teacher: Taleek Harley

Taleek Harley is a 2022 graduate of NC State University. He holds bachelor of science in agricultural education with a concentration in horticultural science and is a former North Carolina Teaching Fellow. Harley is currently entering his second year as a horticulture teacher at his alma mater of Purnell Swett High School in Robeson County. A published author, Harley, is currently pursuing his master's degree in agriculture education at NC State. During his undergraduate time at NC State, Harley served as a College of Agriculture and Life Science senator, was vice chair of the student government committee on government relations and oversight, served as a diversity and education ambassador, and served on several university hiring committees. Harley also worked as a student coordinator for multicultural student affairs and served as a North Carolina Cooperative Extension intern.

Local Board of Education Member: Debora Powell

Reverend Dr. Debora Powell attended East Carolina University where she received a bachelor of science in special education with a minor in psychology. While attending ECU, she was initiated into the Eta Mu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, and gained a legacy of sisterhood and service that continues today. She earned her master of education degree from Grand Canyon University and doctor of philosophy in Christian counseling through the Accredited Institute of Higher Learning through Wilson Chapel Church. A retired educator, Powell taught in Randolph, Robeson, Wilson, Wake, and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools. She was first elected to the Wilson County Board of Education in 2014 and subsequently re-elected in 2018 and 2022. Powell serves on the Boards for the St. John Community Development Corporation, Incorporated and for Dee's House both located in Wilson, North Carolina. She is on the Committee for Persons with Disabilities, a Guardian Ad Litem, the chaplain for the Beta Zeta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, and has served as a mentor for H.E.R. Pride of Wilson County Schools. She also served as the liaison between Wilson County Schools and the WAGES Foster Grandparent Program.

Business/Industry Representative: Patrick Brennan

Patrick Brennan is a product of the North Carolina Public School System and the son of North Carolina educators. His mother taught ninth grade science at Kernersville's East Forsyth High School for many years. His grandmother was educated at the University of North Carolina's College for Women (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), and she taught fifth grade for more than 20 years. In his professional capacity, he serves as the vice president of public policy and government relations at Learning Ally, a non-profit dedicated to providing audiobooks that aide in the development of reading skills for students in special education. In this capacity, Brennan works nationwide with the legislatures, departments of education, and governors who have trusted Learning Ally to serve their struggling readers. Brennan is passionate about making sure that students and teachers are the beneficiaries of taking research to practice. Brennan is a member of the board of directors of the UCSF Dyslexia Center. He also serves on the board of directors of the Strategic Education Research Partnership in Washington, DC. He graduated from Wake Forest University with a BA in political science and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School with an MBA in finance.