



Superintendent's Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Randolph County Board of Education
Dr. Stephen Gainey, Superintendent

FROM: Amber Ward, Public Information Officer

DATE: February 9, 2026

RE: North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching 2026 Burroughs
Wellcome Fund North Carolina Beginning Teacher of the Year Finalist

The NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year Award celebrates the creativity and enthusiasm of beginning teachers, their mentors, school teams, and communities. The Beginning Teacher of the Year selection process was developed to recognize the unique challenges and achievements that new teachers experience during their first year in the classroom. The school system would like to honor Ms. Hutchins, a Science teacher at Wheatmore Middle School, for being named as a finalist for the "NCCAT 2026 Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Beginning Teacher of the Year Award." As a result of this great honor, Ms. Hutchins will be attending a week of professional development with her fellow finalists in March, where interviews and portfolio reviews will be conducted by an expert panel of judges from across the state to determine the next North Carolina Beginning Teacher of the Year. On March 12, NCCAT will celebrate all finalists and announce the winner at a recognition event at Wake Forest University's campus in Winston-Salem.