

Nominee: Matt Ringrose

Nominated by: Chris Veneris

To Chuck Stowe, President NCTAE:

I would like to nominate Matt Ringrose for NCTAE's Educator of the Year. He currently teaches Theatre and Film (grades 9-12) at Grimsley High School. He has been a member of NCTAE since 2011 and has served on the board since 2014. He currently serves as the Advocacy Committee Chair. He is a member of NCTAE in good standing and meets all of the qualifications for nomination.

Matt has taught at Grimsley since 2008. In those years, he has helped to bring theatre back from a mostly after-school activity to a thriving program with several levels of theatre classes taught in addition to the after school activities. Grimsley theatre students have participated in the NCTC High School Play Festival from 2008-2016 and the NC Thespian Festival since 2014. In 2018, Grimsley received Chapter Select Status at the NC Thespian Festival for their performance of Lin-Manuel Miranda's "21 Chump Street." They went on to represent the state of NC with this production at the International Thespian Festival later the same year in Lincoln, Nebraska. In the spring of 2022, Grimsley's production of "A.M.L." received a Superior rating and Runner-Up Status at the NC Thespian Festival. In 2019, the first International Thespian Officer (student board members for the International Thespian Society) selected from the state of NC came from Grimsley High School. She would go on to serve two terms. Grimsley students have participated in the All-State Theatre production since its inception in 2019. Grimsley theatre students are also active in the community, volunteering with charity fundraisers (such as Miles for Matthew) and local theatre groups such Triad Stage and Community Theatre of Greensboro.

Matt is also very involved in the film community, and he is passionate about bringing film opportunities to interested students. Matt has led workshops at county-level PLCs for film and video editing. He has also taught workshops at NCTAE and the North Carolina Thespian Festival dealing with film and video production. He has even taught and led film workshops at the Kansas Thespian Festival, the EdTA National Conference, and the International Thespian Festival. He even co-created a national film creation program for high school students called Filmworks, and later helped to co-create the state-wide counterpart for NC (NC Filmworks), giving high school students across the state an opportunity to create and experiment with film as an art. He currently runs this program for NC Thespians.

In addition to his duties at Grimsley and NCTAE, Matt is an executive board member for NC Thespians (NCEdTA) and serves as the NC representative for the EdTA's Advocacy Leadership Network.

Best,

Chris Veneris

Professional Enrichment Chair-NCTAE

Co-Chapter Director-NC Thespians

Nominee: Lori Hilliard

Nominated by: Ellen Wharton

It is my honor to nominate Lori Hilliard for NCTAE's Educator of the Year.

Lori has been teaching in the Asheville/Buncombe Community for 25 years. Her contagious enthusiasm has been shared with students from grades 5 through 12, educating them about the wonderful world of theatre and how they may use their own drama in a positive manner. Using 21 st Century skills through creative dramatics and group work, Lori strives to advocate for theatre in schools as a necessity in helping solidify and advocate for a well rounded education.

Lori's skills go beyond the classroom. She is also an example of high standards in community and professional theaters in the Asheville setting. She has served on the board of Asheville Community Theatre and North Carolina Stage Company, as well as directing and performing and organizing community outreach. She has been responsible for grant writing and fundraising for the Asheville theatrical community. She even finds time to continue her acting as a professional voice over actor.

As a lifelong learning teacher, she is eager to share his knowledge and experience with students and fellow teachers alike. She is a recurring participant in NCTAE's Fall Sharing and Winter Focus as well as an active member of EdTA.

Lori is quite impressive in her theatrical talents, but more than that, as a friend. She has been a constant support, always encouraging me to never give up. Even through her own battles this past year with cancer, she demonstrated courage and strength to her students, community and friends.

Lori's passion for the profession is inspirational and infectious, while her positive outlook lightens the tough road ahead. From classroom to community to state levels, Lori is a fine example of what theatre arts education is about.

Nominee: Winston sims

Nominated by: Marissa Hertzfeld

I would like to nominate Winston Sims, from Marvin Ridge High School (9th-12th grade).

Winston has grown the theatre department at Marvin Ridge significantly over the years. His program now boasts a variety of diverse students. They complete many productions that represent the students who perform in them, and create an open dialogue about issues in today's world. Students feel involved and appreciated in Winston's program.

Within the community, Winston is respected as an educator and theatre creator. People within the district travel to Marvin Ridge's productions to see what students have accomplished. He is trusted as an excellent resource for any problems other educators may need advice with. Winston is always willing and excited to collaborate with other educators in Union County.

Winston is also trusted within the North Carolina theatre education community to help new educators find their footing. He has hosted 8 interns at this point in time. Each intern has gained valuable knowledge and hands on experience under Winston's tutelage. He is always excited to grow and expand his own knowledge, seeking out opportunities to revive his passion and learn new skills.

Winston is an excellent educator, friend, and theatre maker. He is extremely deserving of Educator of the Year.