



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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MEDIA RELEASE

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (ECET²) Grant Empowers Exceptional Educators

(Columbus, GA)-More than sixty (60) educators from Muscogee County, Chattahoochee County, Fort Benning, Harris County, Russell County, Phenix City schools, and Lee County, Alabama are expected to participate in the first Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers (ECET²) Regional Convening for Columbus, Georgia, March 11 –12, 2016, in Pine Mountain, Georgia. The event and workshops are scheduled at the Marriott Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens, 4500 Southern Pine Drive. The theme is *Enlightening Minds for Generations*. Activities are funded by the support of a \$28,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which was written by Maria Osakwe, an English teacher at Kendrick High School.

“Strong teacher leadership is critical to both transforming student outcomes and strengthening the teaching profession,” said Maria Osakwe. “Recognizing this fact, the teachers of the Muscogee County School District are very excited to host the ECET² Regional convening to celebrate successes, grow in wisdom from failures, and rejuvenate our passion to teach.”

Nearly 200 educators attended the first national ECET² convening in 2012 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Since then, energized teachers have worked to organize a regional convening to inform and inspire colleagues at home, develop leadership potential and help teachers hone their craft. The convening agenda features workshops focused on teacher leadership and innovative instructional practices to support great teaching practice to help support students.

ECET² seeks to realize a teacher’s potential by ensuring each convening aligns with its six key beliefs:

- (1) Nurturing Trust Among Teachers

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- (2) Focusing on Each Teacher's Potential for Growth
- (3) Inspiring Intellect and Passion that Drives Teachers in Their Work
- (4) Providing Time for Collaboration and Learning
- (5) Putting Teachers in the Lead
- (6) Recognizing Teachers as Talented Professionals

Teachers were nominated by school principals and selected by the ECET² Columbus committee. All of the participants are encouraged and expected to share what they learned with teachers and staff at their schools.

For more information, contact communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us , or call (706) 748-2034.

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