

Damon M. Qualls

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PROFILE

Eager to enhance academic achievement of students and professional development opportunities for teachers through my unique combination of education and experience.

Student-focused educator, offering diverse teaching, mentoring and coaching, and administrative preparation background.

Strong ability to make data-driven decisions to provide insight to planning and administrative teams.

Able to establish rapport, gain the trust and respect of colleagues to move from information to implementation. Strong organizational, communication, and presentational skills.

"I am the father of twin boys & if they grow up to be as respectable as MISTER Qualls, I will be one proud father."

*-Mr. Jeff Davis,
Clemson University Asst. Athletic Director &
former Field Director of the Call Me
MISTER Program*

"Your anti-bullying curriculum is one of the best I've seen in the state! I should take you on the road with me."

-Governor Nikki Haley of SC

"Mr. Qualls, 114 projects? You are in the elite group of teachers out of the quarter million who have created projects on our site. Thank you for your leadership!"

-Mr. Charles Best, DonorsChoose.org CEO

"Thank you for being here today and taking part in these crucial conversations." National Institute on Teacher Diversity,

-Dr. John King, U.S. Secretary of Education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

BEREA MIDDLE SCHOOL, Assistant Principal, Greenville County Schools
June 2015 - present

- **Coordinator** of activities ensuring that outcomes achieve school, district and state objectives.
- **Evaluator** assigned for the purpose of ensuring that standards are achieved and performance is maximized through classroom observations, monitoring lesson plans and **Student Learning Objective** teacher conferences.
- **Developer** of school's **Faculty Council**; chairing Grading Policy task force, identifying building leaders as members, comprising agendas, scheduling meetings, for the purpose of meeting to discuss building needs, curriculum guidelines and ensuring that state mandates are achieved.
- **Facilitator** of communication between personnel, students and parents for the purpose of evaluating situations, solving problems and resolving conflicts through weekly **Week at a Glance** publications, website and social media outlets.
- **Developer** of **Social Media** team, utilizing photography and 21st Century communication strategies to reach school stakeholders, in an effort to share news, celebrations and initiatives, distinguishing and solidifying who we are as an institution.
- **Coordinator** of **United Way Campaign**, quadrupling number of participants, increases in individual giving and total amount contributed to district campaign.
- **Manager** of a variety of school administrative functions, such as student disciplinary policy, school schedule, assigned personnel, for the purpose of enforcing school, district and state policy and maintaining safety and efficiency of school operations.
- **Intervenor** in occurrences of inappropriate behavior of students for the purpose of assisting students in modifying such behavior and developing successful interpersonal skills through the **Incident Management System**.
- **Seeker** and **Obtainer** of grant money, resources and supplies via **community and business partnerships**, **totaling \$47,887 and growing** ... for identified teacher, student, campus, community and school needs
- **Consultant** and **Creative developer** in fostering positive school climates and renovating school learning environments with securing funding for artists in residence, murals, creating bulletin boards highlighting faculty and staff achievements, as well as student work and achievements
- **Presenter** and **Participant** in meetings, workshops, conferences and seminars for the purpose of conveying and gathering information required to perform school functions and day to day operations
- **Representative** of the school within community forums for the purpose of maintaining ongoing community support for educational goals and assisting with issues related to school environment.
- **Supervisor** of school personnel for the purpose of monitoring performance, providing for professional growth and overall achievement.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE *continued*

- **Assists** building principal and administrative team with fire, storm and tornado drills on a regular basis and implementation of emergency evacuations and lock-downs effectively.
- **Planner** and **Initiator** of **special events** to create and maintain a climate and culture of appreciation, acceptance, diversity and support: **Back to School supply drives** with adoptions from area businesses, **Back to School Fashion Show** highlighting transition to school uniforms for 2016-2017 school year, **Pink'd Out Day** for Breast Cancer Awareness, **Teacher Appreciation Week**, **American Education Week** honoring *Monday: School Support Staff* - Food service, custodians, aides, secretaries, clerks, bookkeepers, paraprofessionals, school resource officer, *Tuesday: Transportation Staff*, *Wednesday: Certified staff*— teachers, media specialists, guidance counselors, assistant principals, principals, *Thursday: Operations/Maintenance Staff* and *Friday: District Staff*; annually securing an average of \$4,000 in donated prizes, give-a-ways and catered meals.
- **Coach** of school's first team to participate and win in the regional Black History Bowl
- **Organizer** in securing school's participation and representation in District Teacher of the Year, Greenville County School International Reading Association, Distinguished Reading teacher of the Year (first) South Carolina PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Teacher of the Year (first), Emerging Teacher of the Year (first), Greenville County Science Teacher Association Science teacher of the Year (first)
- **Director** of Title One, **After-School Program** - collaboratively researching and approving curriculum, monitoring student enrollment, attendance and behavior, securing nutritious snacks and supervising transportation

ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Greenville County Schools

August 2004 - May 2015

5th Grade, Teacher Leader

- **Grade level chair** for seven years, led team on effective lesson planning and assessment, MAP RIT groups, and providing leadership to novice teachers on grade level
- **Team leader** in disseminating data from common assessments and submitted to assistant superintendent, made grade level agendas and facilitated grade level meetings
- **Public Relations & Marketing Point of Contact** specializing in creating a 'school brand' and identity
- **Presenter** of best practices, class website usage, Accelerated Reader integration, grant obtainment and closing the gap strategies in high stakes testing
- **Seeker** and **Obtainer** of grant money, resources and supplies via community and business partnerships, **totaling \$151,000 for school needs**
- **Initiator** of school-wide **Ron Clark Academy National Educators' Conference**, Professional Development, raising over \$10,432 to send a group of ten teachers—June 2015
- **Mentor teacher** for practicum students from Clemson University, Furman University, North Greenville University & Grand Canyon University, modeling exemplary teaching practices and classroom management
- **Implementer** of strategies and best practices acquired through the Compass Odyssey, Upstate Writing Project and Fountas and Pinnell Balanced Literacy professional developments
- **Leadership team Chairman**, presenting data and sample work to leadership team and assistant superintendent, disseminating information to grade level teachers, selected to attend ASCD conference in New Orleans, LA
- **Staff member recipient** selected to take Digital Express class through Clemson University to enhance student writing through the use of Photoshop Software, classroom set of digital cameras and LCD Projector
- **Interview teams' member** for the hiring of teacher, instructional coach, administrative assistant, and principal positions.
- **Creator** of display used by administration team, at the Greenville County Schools' Shining Stars Teacher Recruitment Event held at the Bi-Lo Center 2011, 2012, 2015
- **Preparer** of Common Core standards based lessons and outlines for courses of study, following curriculum guidelines and requirements by the state
- **Developer** of integrated lessons through collaboration with grade level team
- **Mentor Teacher** for Induction year teachers, modeling exemplary teaching practices, classroom management strategies, counseling sessions and developing SMART goals; **Mentor & Nominator of the 2013-2014 Greenville County Schools Emerging Teacher of the Year**
- **Consultant** and **Creative developer** in fostering positive school climates and renovating school learning environments, to include a school-wide transformation with murals, raising over **\$10,814**

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS

ADEPT / PAS-T Evaluator, State MENTOR, Capturing Kids' Hearts, Pro Training First Aid & CPR, Early Warning Response System, Parenting Partners, Building a Student Centered Coaching Framework, PowerSchool, Bomb Threats, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, CHAMPS, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Plan
Fountas & Pinnell Balanced Literacy, Upstate Writing Project, Compass Odyssey

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Southern Baptist Association

Director of Youth Ministries, Associate Minister, Interim Pastor

- Identified & consistently monitoring the needs of ministries.
- Recommended strategies, programs & support mechanisms to meet discovered needs
- Leader of church services, developing, organizing training materials
- Conduct visitations to perspective members, hospitals & shut-ins
- Officiator of worship & pastoral care concerns to include funerals & weddings
- Provide counseling and referral to those in need

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

2004 - present

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Certificate of Study, Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership - Principal's Institute

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Education
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Summer of 2016

Master of Education in School Leadership/Administration

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Greenville, South Carolina
2012 - 2014

Master of Education in Divergent Learning

COLUMBIA COLLEGE
Columbia, South Carolina
2006 - 2007

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

BENEDICT COLLEGE
Columbia, South Carolina
2000 - 2004

TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

- Exemplary use of Microsoft Outlook to send and reply to email messages. Mastered creating email groups, managing calendars to send reminders of appointments, and creating folders
- Promethean Board trained with ActivInspire Software to include ActivVotes and ActivExpressions
- Proficient at Microsoft Office to include PowerPoint, to make interactive, vivid presentations to varying audiences, Microsoft Word, and Publisher to produce newsletters, flyers, and invitations
- Integrator of technology in lesson plans through Webquest, eColor Nooks, PowerPoint Presentations, iPads, iPods, Digital Microphone bundles and Promethean Board

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

National Leadership Roles:

- Developer of 10 week civic engagement challenge pilot w/ Teacher's Guild & ASCD Alexandria, VA September 2016
- Presenter, National Summit on Teacher Diversity, United States Department of Education, Washington, DC May 2016
- (Selected) National Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics Conference, Minneapolis, MN May 2015
- Discussion Panelist - DonorsChoose.org Partnership Summit, Ford Foundation, New York, NY May 2015
- Professional Development Pilot Program—DonorsChoose.org February 2015
- The Peggy Denny Show - spotlighting *Men Who Read Program* initiative February 14, 2014
- Teachers as Screeners Program via DonorsChoose.org, August 2012
- Horace Mann Educator Advisory Panel, 2011 - present
- Interviewed by ABC's Bob Jamieson, ABC News *A Few Good Men: The Male Teacher Shortage Across the Nation*, 2007, nationally syndicated on ABC network on February 3, 2007
- Featured in Cambridge's Who's Who Among Executive & Professionals, Honor's Edition, 2007 - 2008
- Discussion panelist, NASA Pre-Service Teacher Conference, Alexandria, VA 2003- 2004
- Featured MISTER on nationally syndicated Oprah Winfrey Show, Chicago, IL, 2001

State Leadership Roles:

- (Scheduled Presenter) at South Carolina Association of School Administrators - Innovative Ideas Institute, Myrtle Beach, SC July 2017
Making the Most of DonorsChoose.org—An Administrator's Perspective, session title
- Clemson University, inaugural Senior Advisory Board meeting speaker for the College of Education, November 2016
- South Carolina Association of Supervision & Curriculum Development (SCASCD) Emerging Leader, 2016-2017
- Presenter / Facilitator at South Carolina Association of Middle Level Educators (SCAMLE) *March 2016, 2015*
Myrtle Beach, SC *You Can't Lose with Donors Choose*, session title
- Presenter at South Carolina Association of Title One School Administrators (SCATA) *October 2015, 2014*
Myrtle Beach, SC *You Can't Lose with Donors Choose*, session title
- Presenter at the Upstate Technology Conference, July 2016, 2015 *You Can't Lose with Donors Choose*, July 2014 *Budget Busters!* July 2013 *How Much Is It? Bringing Technology into Your Classroom*
- Presenter at South Carolina International Reading Association State Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC 2012
Tackling Technology: MVP's of the Field of Reading, session title
- Featured Educator on South Carolina's ETV Documentary, *Journey to MISTER*, 2007 - 2008
- Benedict College Founder's Day Convocation, speaker, 2007 - 2008
- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, formerly National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Program Preparation Team for Southern Wesleyan University 2014, Columbia College 2008 - 2009, Clemson University 2004 - 2005, & Benedict College 2003 - 2004

District Leadership Roles:

- 2017-2018 Greenville County Teacher of the Year screening committee
- Furman University, First Family Breakfast speaker for university President, Dr. Elizabeth Davis & First Gentleman, Dr. Dr. Charles Davis & distinguished guests, November 2016
- Selection to the Greenville County Schools' 2016 –2017 Assistant Principal Institute (API) - a year-long program of study involving more than 20 hours of professional development classes, online dialogues, book studies, and small group discussions.
- Presenter / Facilitator at South Carolina Association of Middle Level Educators (SCAMLE) Piedmont Region Conference December 2015, *You Can't Lose with Donors Choose*, session title
- Two Day Mentor Balanced Literacy Training, Teaching for Comprehension & Fluency presentation April 2015
- Greeks for Greenville Fundraising Campaign Speaker—Furman University
- Shining Stars Teacher Recruitment Event representative from Alexander Elementary, March 2015
- Presenter at Robert E. Cashion Elementary School Improvement Council meeting, February 2015
- Presenter at Summer Academy July 2016 *You Can't Lose with Donors Choose*, 2014 *Budget Busters!* July 2013 *How Much Is It? Bringing Technology into Your Classroom*, session title
- Presenter at Greenville County International Reading Association Winter Conference, Mitchell Road Elementary, *Transforming Your Classroom in the Midst of Budget Cuts*, session title, 2011
- Presenter at Greenville County International Reading Association, Fall Conference, Greenbrier Elementary, *Reading Instruction for the 21st Century Learner*, session title, 2011
- Greenville County Schools: Materials & Review Committee, 2010 - present ; Calendar Committee, 2007 - 2008; Teacher Leadership Forum, 2006 - 2008; Task Force on Grading Policies

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

- **Upstate Parent Magazine**, 10 Educators that Make a Difference Award recipient, January 2017
- **South Carolina Association of Supervision & Curriculum Development (SCASCD) Emerging Leader**, 2016-2017
- Recipient of the inaugural **Call Me MiSTER Trailblazer Award**, 2016 National CMM Leadership Institute
- **United States Dept. of Education** participant in **National Summit on Teacher Diversity**, Washington, DC, May 2016
- 2015, 2016 United Way Coordinator - Campaign of Excellence Award, Campaign of Advancement Award (25% or more increase in employee giving and 25% or more in increased dollars raised).
- Southern Wesleyan University National Alumni Association 2015 **Young Leader Award** recipient, October 2015
- **Ron Clark Academy**, National Educators' Conference - Slide Certified
- Teacher of the Year, Alexander Elementary School, 2015-2016
- 2014 **Teacher That Rocks** Award recipient from DonorsChoose.org
- 2014 **Innovative Teaching Grant** recipient through Public Education Partners
- 2014 **Excellence in Education Award** recipient from Horace Mann Insurance, with news coverage by WYFF
- Greenville County Schools, Teacher of the Year, **TOP TEN Finalist, District's First - Runner Up**, 2006 - 2007
- Black Legislative Caucus, **Clergy Day at the Dome**, House of Representatives, General Assembly recognition, 2013
- Greenville County's International Reading Association **Distinguished Reading Teacher of the Year**, 2012
- Two week feature by WYFF News Channel 4 as an **Upstate Black History Maker**, February 2012
- Selected by Cox Radio Group as an Upstate Black History Maker, February 2012
- National School Supply, **Bulletin Board Contest winner**, 2011 - 2012
- **Distinguished Reading Teacher of the Year**, Alexander, 2011 - 2012
- **127 Fully Funded Grants** Recipient through DonorsChoose.org, totaling over \$60,325
- **Greenville News' Teacher of the Week**, November 2006 & May 2013— *Dressing & Reading for Success*, article
- Teacher of the Year, Alexander, 2005 - 2006 PTA Teacher of the Year, Alexander, 2005 - 2006
- Appointed to **Benedict College Board of Trustees** by college president, David Holmes Swinton, 2003 - 2004
- **Outstanding Program Evaluator**, NASA Pre-Service Teacher Institute; Stennis Space Center, Bay St. Louis, MS
- Presenter of first honorary MISTER Award to **United States Secretary of Education**, Dr. Roderick Paige, 2002

MEDIA COVERAGE & PRESS RELEASES

- **Harvard University, Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership coverage**
<http://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/carolinapanorama.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/eedition/b/cf/bcf69a9a-5212-919f-0ac5b1872caf/57180feaa0a64.pdf.pdf>
<https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/News/main.asp?titleid=1604qualls>
- **National Public Radio** interview with Robin Young
<http://hereandnow.wbur.org/2015/05/11/stephen-colbert-funds-teachers>
- **MSNBC PoliticsNation** interview with Al Sharpton
<http://www.msnbc.com/politicsnation/watch/stephen-colbert-s-surprise-gift-to-teachers-442349123918>
- **GreenvilleOnline.com** *Greenville School Crowdfunds \$100,000*
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2015/02/04/crowdfunding-surprising-success-greenville-school/22882539/>
- **WYFF News 4** *Teacher Receives Big Honor—Excellence In Education Award*
<http://www.wyff4.com/news/Teacher-receives-big-honor/25962140>
<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/news/main.asp?titleid=1405qualls>
- **Peggy Denny Show—Dress for Success**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvSJUhWgqZ0> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nv0zyH-JA9o>
- **Greenville County Schools**
Distinguished Gentlemen 'Blaze' through Reading in Style - <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/news/main.asp?titleid=1303blaze>
Top Ten Teachers of the Year - http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/District/news/release/tofy/2006a_tofy.asp
- **National School Supply**
<http://www.nationalschoolsupply.com/blog/bulletin-board-photo-contest-winner-announced>
- **ABC National News** *Schools Seek a Few Good Men* <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/story?id=2847296&page=1>
- **Call Me MISTER Coverage**
<http://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/call-me-mister-to-participate-in-u-s-department-of-education-summit-on-teacher-diversity/>
<http://www.menteach.org/search/node/Qualls>
<http://oholwerda.wordpress.com/2007/02/04/call-me-mister/>
HEDLines—Clemson University
http://www.clemson.edu/hehd/documents/hehdlines-magazine-archives/HEHDlines_Winter2006.pdf - pg. 15
- **Camden Chronicle** *They Call Him MISTER Qualls* https://www.ciclt.net/sn/new/n_detail.aspx?ClientCode=clemson&N_ID=200098