

MICHELLE BURTON

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CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 20+ years in education, advocating for North Carolina students, teachers, administrators, and staff.
- Led a team of DAE members, parents, and community advocates to successfully lobby the NC legislature to retract their K-3 class size mandate.
- Secured a \$75K grant to launch a leadership development initiative providing DAE members with coaching and resources to become building-level advocates within schools.
- Chaired the DEI committee for the NC School Library Media Association with a focus on building inclusive and diverse media centers; analyzed data, assessed needs, and presented findings to the BOD.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Leadership | Advocacy | Coaching & Development | Change Management | Community Engagement
Research & Analysis | Project Management | Grant Writing | Strategic Planning | Public Speaking
Organizing

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

NCAE Student Services Division | Durham, NC

2019 – Present

President

- Lead a division of 730 members from across the state of North Carolina; supervise all affairs, ensure compliance with all federal and state laws, authorize the execution of contracts, and approve the annual budget.
- Rebuilt Student Services division board from 5 to 14 members within a two-year period engaging social workers, librarians, counselors, and other staff supporting social and emotional learning to build awareness of issues, and advocate for increased awareness and funding.
- Enhanced communication infrastructure, streamlining messaging and outreach through social media and email platforms to increase access to information and encourage involvement within local associations.

Government Relations

- Interview all candidates running for elected office at the local, state, and national levels to determine whether NCAE will provide a political endorsement.

Durham Association of Educators (DAE) | Durham, NC

2016 – Present

President (2019 – Present)

- Lead a large local urban union with 869 members; grew membership density by 25% over a two-year period with a focus on recruiting new teachers and leveraging data analytics to refine outreach efforts.
- Organized and led a leadership team that successfully advocated for a raise for over 1200 Durham Public School employees, increasing their hourly wage to \$15.00.
- Engaged the Superintendent, School Board, and other elected officials to facilitate the vaccination of teachers and a delayed reopening of schools through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Led the Kids Can't Wait Campaign, securing \$3K in additional bonuses for all DPS employees from the Durham Public School Board, Superintendent, and federal ESSER funds.

Co-Chair, Bull City Community Schools Steering Committee (2021 – Present)

- Partner with the Executive Director of the Durham Public Schools Foundation and Director of Community Schools to promote a distributed leadership model where parents and educators inform the schools strategic vision

Member at Large, Board of Directors (2016 – 2019)

- Led the Government Relations Committee focused on engaging local elected officials.
- Organized and led the Schools Deserve More Town Hall in Durham as part of a state-wide campaign to bring together elected officials, educators, and the community at large.
- Served on DPS Strategic Planning Committee with 50 other Durham Community Leaders.
- Served as Building Representative for Spring Valley Elementary School.

Durham Public Schools Foundation | Durham, NC

2018 – 2021

Founding Board Member

- Established organizational mission and vision to celebrate and support Durham Public Schools through promotion and fundraising for initiatives not supported by government resources.
- Created governing processes and procedures; recruited and hired an Executive Director.

Co-Chair, Championing Public Education Committee

- Partnered with Brogden and Lucas Middle Schools to share the positive impact Durham Public Schools can have on students and local community.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Durham Public Schools | Durham, NC

2015 – Present

School Library Media Specialist, Spring Valley Elementary School

- Manage resources within a library media center serving 600+ students in a K-5 Title 1 school; oversee an \$8K budget and lead efforts to secure an additional \$10 – 15K annually through events and community partnerships.
- Served as Chair of the School Improvement Team, working with school staff and administrators to author the school improvement plan focused on enhancing student achievement, parent involvement, and community engagement.
- Initiated a school wide literacy committee that is now a permanent part of the school culture encouraging teachers to work collaboratively to incorporate reading into the curriculum.
- Lead collection development efforts, curating a school library collection tailored to the student population.

Wake County Public Schools | Raleigh, NC

2011 – 2015

School Library Media Specialist, Walnut Creek Elementary School

- Managed resources and an annual budget of \$8K for a K-5, Title I school library media center serving over 800 students; supervised a library assistant.
- Taught 30+ classes a week based on North Carolina's Information Skills curriculum; collaborated with teachers to supplement classroom learning.
- Led the first ever Wake Up & Read event to provide every child with 10 books for summer reading
- Chaired the school literacy committee and co-chaired the Media and Technology Committee, leading a team of teachers from each grade level.

Previous experience: School Librarian / Media Specialist, Alamance-Burlington School System (2006 – 2011) & School Librarian / Media Specialist, Durham Public Schools (1994 – 2006).

EDUCATION & TRAINING

North Carolina Central University

MS | Library Science

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

BA | Speech Communication & Rhetoric

UC Berkeley Labor Center | Community Schools Organizing Institute with Jane McAlevey | September 2021

National Education Association | Pre-Uniserv Academy | April – June 2021

Harvard Kennedy School of Government | Labor and Work Life Leadership Training with Marshall Ganz | July 2020

CERTIFICATIONS

North Carolina Teacher License, Media Coordinator, Grades K-12

ADDITIONAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Committee Member, North Carolina Children's Book Award Committee, 2017 – 2022
- Board Member, Friends of the Durham County Library, 2017 – 2019
- Board Member, North Carolina School Library Media Association 2022-
- Board Member, North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children 2022-

