



# A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC



The NC Statewide System of Support has created a link to resources for teachers. Here you will find additional links to wikis and other resources and information you may find helpful. [Resources for Teachers](#)

**Do You Have Student Loans?** Check out this information about loan forgiveness to see if your degree meets the requirements.

**NC Forgivable Education Loans for Service**  
<https://www.cfnc.org/FELS>

Please make sure to read through the three documents that have more information at that site (included for ease):

Eligible Institutions  
[http://www.ncseaa.edu/documents/2016-17\\_FELSEligibleInstitutions.pdf](http://www.ncseaa.edu/documents/2016-17_FELSEligibleInstitutions.pdf)

Approved Education Programs  
[http://www.ncseaa.edu/documents/2016-17\\_FELSAprovedPrograms.pdf](http://www.ncseaa.edu/documents/2016-17_FELSAprovedPrograms.pdf)

FELS Rules

[https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/FELS\\_Rules.pdf](https://www.cfnc.org/static/pdf/home/sc/pdf/FELS_Rules.pdf)



Regional Education Facilitators-NC Department of Public Instruction  
[www.regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home](http://www.regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home)

## A Message from : 2016-2017 North Carolina Teacher of the Year– Bobbie Cavnar



### BE FEARLESS

Welcome, beginning teachers, to the most exciting, upsetting, inspiring, and scary years of your career. If you are nervous, I want to assure you that, in my 17 years of teaching, I have never gotten over that. I still have nightmares the week before school starts that I will not be able to control my classes, that the administration will hate me, that the kids won't listen to me. But I want you also to know that all beginning teachers, deep down, are fearless in a way that even they may not realize. The beginning teachers I have met are not afraid to take on the toughest assignments in the school, not afraid to teach the hardest to reach children, not afraid to experiment with innovative classroom techniques and lessons. The beginning teachers I have met specifically sought out children that other teachers were afraid of and, in so doing, gained the

trust and respect of their students and their co-workers. As I was thinking about this, I believe I realized why it is that so many of the beginning teachers I meet are so fearless. It is because you would have to be fearless to begin a teaching career in the current climate of our state. I guarantee that every one of you reading this were at some point told you were making a mistake, should choose another profession, or at least a different state. You must be fearless to stare down the barrage of anti-education legislation and sentiment that relentlessly batters our profession and say, "Yes, that's the career for me." I know already that you are fearless; I urge you now to stay fearless. You will need to stay fearless to stare into the face of poverty, inequality, mental and physical disability, bigotry, hatred, and the thousand other injustices that children are heir to and not back down.

You must stay fearless as you teach public school, because you are the front line in the fight for equality for children. For many of our children, you are the one and only chance they have at a better life. For some of our children, the only person who cares for them, who provides for them, and who will fight for them, will be an educator. So, to all of you beginning teachers, I want to be the first of many to say, "Thank you." Thank you for doing what you knew to be right for children even above your own interests. Thank you for having the guts to stick with your passion even when all around you tried to convince you to take a safer path. But, I also want to say to all of you, please never back down. Abraham Lincoln in a letter about his son's schooling said, "Only the test of fire makes strong steel." Well, this is your test of fire, but you will be a stronger educator because of it, if you will just **be fearless**.

**Bobbie Cavnar**– 9-12 English and Journalism teacher- South Point High School–Gaston County

## People Who Can Help You– Get to Know Them



When you need help, whom should you call?

his/her advice and apply the suggestions offered to you.

### 1. Mentor

Your mentor has been assigned to you and can help you navigate through your school's or your district's policies and initiatives. Your mentor is there to support you and to assist with instructional strategies and ideas.

### 3. Peers

Grade level or subject Professional Learning Communities (PLC) are a great source of help to beginning teachers. Be an active participant in these meetings.

### 5. BT Coordinator

This district person monitors the support you receive as a beginning teacher at the local level. She/he is your liaison within the district.

### 2. Principal

Your principal is your direct supervisor. Communicate with him/her as to your needs. Listen to

### 4. Academic Coaches

Call on these individuals when you need help with instructional best practices and student data.

### 6. Licensure Specialist

Call on this person with questions about your Plan of Study and/or your license conversion.