

Education Majors

Friday, March 26, 2021

CEPP Presents:



Spring 2021 Virtual Speaker

Series featuring

Georgia Association Secondary
School Principal of the Year

Keith Ball and

Georgia Teacher of the Year

Tracey Pendley




Hear about insights and
successes from both award
winning educators



MARCH 26 • 11:30 PM TO 1:00 PM

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Tracey Nance Pendley

Georgia Teacher of the Year

Presenting: Celebrating Teacher Impact

Tracey Nance Pendley is a fourth grade teacher and instructional mentor at Burgess-Peterson Academy in Atlanta Public Schools. Pendley earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and religion from Furman University in 2006, where she directed an afterschool program in three underserved neighborhoods. Pendley graduated from the University of Chicago's Urban Teacher Education Program (UTEP) in 2009 with a Master's in Teaching, and taught third grade at a Chicago Public Turnaround School for three years before returning to her native Atlanta.

Pendley is a 2018 Teach On Project winner and teacher leader within her building. She used the TOP award to establish her school's 4-H Club with the aim of celebrating students not often recognized and funding camp scholarships. Pendley was named the 2020 Georgia Teacher of the Year in May 2019, giving her the opportunity to travel the state to share her practice and represent Georgia's incredible students and teachers. In addition to this honor, Pendley's most rewarding achievements include 11 years of mentoring student teachers, advocating for students through community partnerships, and witnessing students unlock their limitless potential. During the 2020-2021 school year, Pendley is serving a second year as Georgia Teacher of the Year, and supports teachers and reading intervention students at her home school, Burgess-Peterson.

Student ownership of learning, forging relationships, and loving one's mistakes are at the heart of her philosophy, and are just a few of the ways that Pendley "brings the magic" to her classroom. Passionate as both teacher and student, Pendley enjoys learning from fellow educators and increasing awareness of both educational equity and the magnitude of teachers' impact.

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Bio. Mr. Keith L. Ball

The 2021 Georgia Principal of the Year. 2020 National Center for Learning Disabilities Everyday Champion and 2019 GSPA Administrator of the Year, earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees from the State University of New York at Albany. An honor graduate and two-sport collegiate letterman, Mr. Ball continued his education at Lincoln Memorial University where he earned his Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision. A life-long learner, Mr. Ball is currently pursuing his ESOL endorsement through Metro RESA.

Mr. Ball is a fierce advocate for children and a Principal who is relentless in his efforts to provide equity, access and inclusion for all of his students. A 22 year veteran of public education who has lead three schools to unprecedented success, Mr. Ball now serves as the Principal and Head of School at Marietta High School, in Cobb County Georgia. Marietta High School is a Title I school, an IB World School and a Georgia College and Career Academy. Mr. Ball is responsible for 2,600 students, 240 staff on two campuses, including a newly launched night school called MESH (Marietta Evening School Hours).

In 2019, Marietta High School earned its first ever CCRPI report card score of “B” which helped earned its first ever, GASSP High School Breakout Award for significant improvement in student achievement. In 2020, facing numerous obstacles caused by COVID-19, Marietta achieved its highest graduation rate in school history. *“Preparing every child to learn, earn and serve is what we do at Marietta. We do this by being student driven, data informed and future friendly.”*

Mr. Ball is obsessed with attracting and retaining the best talent in education. In that effort, he has a diverse and dynamic staff from all over the United States who care deeply about growing students. Educators who are willing to do the “heart work” to make students feel welcome, engaged and empowered is who he wants on his team. *“Be somebody who makes everyone feel like somebody”.*

Mr. Ball credits his ability to get the job done to his Superintendent, Dr. Grant Rivera and the Marietta City Schools Board of Education. *“Their bold vision and willingness to provide the support needed to serve the diverse students at Marietta is why I love being a Blue Devil!”*

Prior to becoming a Principal, Mr. Ball was a social studies teacher, athletics coach, Department Head and Assistant Principal. In 2004, as a teacher at Carlton J. Kell High School in Cobb County, Mr. Ball earned the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for his character, compassion, and generosity. While serving as an Assistant Principal at Cherokee High School in Cherokee County, Mr. Ball also taught a leadership class he authored. In 2005, he was recognized as the Valedictorian Teacher of the Year and earned the Student Leadership Award in 2007.

Mr. Ball is currently a candidate for the United States Department of Education Ambassadorship Fellowship and a candidate for GASSP National Principal of the Year.

Mr. Ball is the proud father of two boys and has been married to his college sweet heart for 18 years. Outside of school, he plays competitive tennis, is an avid gardener and loves coaching his sons’ sports teams.