

2022 Robert Morton Award District Nominees

AASBO is pleased to announce the 2022 district nominees for the Robert L. Morton Award. This award is named in honor of the late Robert L. Morton, former assistant superintendent of administration and finance for the Alabama State Department of Education. This award recognizes outstanding Chief School Finance Officers devoted to going above and beyond to do their job and to serve their community. AASBO seeks to recognize individuals who are trying to make a difference in the lives of their peers and subordinates and have set new standards for themselves and their colleagues in their profession. Congratulations to the district nominees.

District 1 – Samantha Sanks, Brewton City

Samantha Sanks has been employed with the Brewton City Board of Education since 2013. She serves in various roles including the CSFO, payroll clerk, and the Child Nutrition Director. Prior to her employment with the Board, she worked with the State of Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts for over 10 years as an auditor of governmental county entities. She is a graduate of Auburn University with double majors in accounting and finance. She is married to Tony Sanks and they reside in Brewton with their two children John (10) and AnnaLaura (3).

District 2 – Grindal Harris, Selma City Board of Education

Grindal D. Harris has been employed with the Selma City Board of Education for the past 11 years as the CSFO. Prior to their employment with Selma City Board of Education she worked with Bush Hog, Inc. as a Senior Accountant. She is a graduate of UAB with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She is married to Michael Harris and has two sons: Miguel and Markell Harris. She has four grandchildren: Markell Jr., Mackenzie, Myles and Morgan Harris.

District 3 – Jennifer Hornsby, Pike County Board of Education

Jennifer Hornsby has been employed with the Pike County Board of Education for the past sixteen years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to her employment with the Board, she worked with the State of Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts for five years as an auditor and as the accountant for the Pike County Commission for three years. She is a graduate of Troy University with a B.S. Degree in Accounting and has recently earned the ASBO International SFO certification as a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. Jennifer currently serves as President of AASBO. She has been married to Jackie Hornsby for 27 years and enjoys spending time with and spoiling their nieces and nephews.

District 4 – Ken Roberts, Lee County Board of Education

Ken Roberts has been employed with the Lee County Board of Education for the past 7 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to his employment with the board, he worked with the Alabama Association of School Boards as the Chief Operations Officer. He was also employed as the Chief School Financial Officer with the Autauga County Board of Education, the Chief Education Financial Officer with the Alabama State Department of Education, as well as, spending 13 years as an auditor with the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. Mr. Roberts, who is a licensed CPA, graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Accounting and holds an MBA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

District 5 – Willie Davis, Legacy Prep Charter School

Willie Davis has been employed with Legacy Prep Charter School for the past year as the Chief School Financial Officer and was recently appointed to serve also as the interim CEO. Prior to his employment with Legacy Prep, Willie worked with the Birmingham City Schools serving as an internal auditor, chief accountant, director of accounts payable; Bessemer City as Chief School Financial Officer; Huntsville City School as director of finance and the city of Tarrant as the finance director. He is a graduate of Delta State University earning a BBA and MBA in management.

District 6 – Lesley Bollendorf, Talladega City Board of Education

Lesley Bollendorf has been employed with Talladega City Board of Education for the past three and a half years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to their employment with Talladega City, Lesley worked at Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind and Calhoun County Board of Education as the Chief Financial Officer and with the Examiners of Public Accounts. Lesley is a graduate of Jacksonville State University where she earned her BS and MBA and holds the SFO certification. Lesley is married to Keith and has a daughter Hunter Lasseter and son-in-law Jeremy and three beautiful grandchildren.

District 7 – Danny Higdon, Tuscaloosa County Board of Education

Danny Higdon has been employed with the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education for 15 1/2 years (2005 – 2020 and 2021 – present) and is the CSFO. He has held the position of CFO/Director of Finance, Director of Accounting and Coordinator of Accounting. Prior to his employment with Tuscaloosa County, he worked with the City of Northport as the Assistant Finance Director and Auditor. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama with Bachelors of Science in Commerce and Business Administration. He earned his School Business Official certification in 2008 from AASBO and his Payroll/Personnel certification in 2011. He is a former member of the Alabama Revenue Officers Association (AMROA) where he served as Treasurer, President, and Chairman of the Board. He is also a former member of the Alabama Army National Guard and achieved the rank of Captain. He has been married to his wife Mitzi for 34 years and has three sons and five grandchildren.

District 8 – Candy Marbutt, Haleyville City Board of Education

Candy has been employed with the Haleyville City Board of Education for the past 8 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to her employment with Haleyville, she served as Chief Financial Officer for a management company specializing in long term care and has worked as a Cost Accountant in the manufacturing industry as well as a Tax Accountant and Auditor for a private CPA firm. She is a graduate of the University of North Alabama with a B.S. Degree in Accounting with advanced hours in Finance. In addition to being a member of AASBO, she is also a member of CLAS, AASPA & AAFEPA. Candy is married to her high school sweetheart, Joey, celebrating 29 years of marriage. They have three sons, Zachary, Ty, and Jady. Candy enjoys spending time with family, working on their farm, watching sports, reading and traveling.

District 9 – Christy Mead, Albertville City Board of Education

Christy Mead has been employed with the Albertville City Board of Education for the past 13 years as the Chief Financial Officer. Prior to their employment she worked for Tarrant City Schools as Chief Financial Officer and with Madison City and Madison County schools in financial department roles. She has more than 25 years of experience in school finance. She is a graduate of Athens State University with a Bachelors of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration from Florida Tech University. She holds a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO) by ASBO International.