

# aasbo

# Alabama Association of School Business Officials

AASBO is pleased to announce the 2020 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: Avery Ford, Thomasville City** - Avery has been employed with the Thomasville City Board of Education for the past 2 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to his employment with Thomasville, he spent over 5½ years serving as the CSFO for the Conecuh County Board of Education and also worked as a Cost Accountant in the manufacturing industry. He is a graduate of both Huntingdon College and Troy University, where he earned a BA in Accounting and a MBA, respectively. In addition to being a member of AASBO, he is a member of CLAS, SSA and SASBO.

**District 2: Grindal D. Harris, Selma City** - Grindal has been employed with the Selma City Board of Education for the past 9 years as the CSFO. Prior to her 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. Grindal is married to Michael Harris and has two sons: Miguel and Markell Harris. She has three grandchildren: Markell Jr., Mackenzie and Myles Harris.

**District 3: Shannon Odom, Coffee County** - Shannon has been employed with the Coffee County Board of Education for the past 8 years as the Chief School Finance Officer. Prior to her employment as the CSFO for Coffee County, she worked with the Crenshaw County Board of Education for 9 years as the Assistant Chief School Finance Officer as well as performing other duties in Federal Programs, CNP, Payroll, and Accounts Payable. Shannon graduated from Faulkner University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

**District 4: Jason Mann, Elmore County** - Jason has been employed with the Elmore County Board of Education for the past 5 years as the Chief School Finance Officer. Prior to his employment with the ECBOE he worked for 5 years for the Alabama Department of Education, in the LEA Finance Department as a Staff Accountant. He received his bachelor's degree from Troy University, and later earned his master's degree (MBA) from Louisiana State University. He is currently in the process of earning his SFO certification.

**District 5: Lynn Buch, Homewood City** - Lynn has been the Chief School Financial Officer at the Homewood City Board of Education since March 2015. She also has over 14 years' experience in various school business official roles with several school districts. She has two bachelor's degrees, Accounting, and Business, from Auburn University at Montgomery as well as an associate degree in Computer Science from Enterprise State Junior College. She holds ASBO International SFO Certification, Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations. She is currently Chair of the ASBO International SFO Certification Commission and the Alabama Director for SASBO. Prior to entering the education community, she worked in public accounting and in computer operations for the USAF.

**District 6: Robin Cunningham, Cherokee County** - Robin has been employed with the Cherokee County Board of Education for 28 years. She has held the position of Chief School Financial Officer for the past 20 years and was the Accounts Payable Bookkeeper prior to becoming the CSFO. Robin and her husband, Chuck, have been married for 26 years and they have one son. In her time away from work, she serves as the children's minister for her church and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

**District 7: Serena Owsley, Athens City** - Serena has been employed with Athens City Schools for the past 23 years. She has served as a Substitute Coordinator, Bookkeeper, Payroll Coordinator, Custodian of Funds/Accounting Supervisor and Chief School Financial Officer for the last 4 years. In 2019 she was named as Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Finance. She serves as the Capital Planner and is responsible for finance, facilities, maintenance, transportation and child nutrition. Prior to her employment with the school system she worked for an Accounting firm as a tax accountant. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville where she earned her bachelor's degree in accounting. She also holds the ASBO Intl SFO certification.

**District 8: Danny Higdon, Tuscaloosa County** - Danny has been employed with the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education for the past 14 1/2 years 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 a Bachelor 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 3 sons and 4 grandchildren.

**District 9: Cindy Parker, Blount County** - Cindy has been employed by the Blount County Board of Education for 6 years as the Chief School Financial Officer. Prior to her employment with the Blount County Board of Education, she worked as a Controller with a private corporation for 14 years, and in 2002, she became a local school bookkeeper where she was in the role for ten years. She is a graduate from Faulkner University with a Business Administration degree. She also has Master's in Accounting from The University of Alabama in Birmingham. In June 2017, she obtained her SFO Certification from ASBO International. Cindy resides in Hayden with her husband of 33 years. She has 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren.