

**Employee of the Month
for
New Learning Resources School District**



**Heather Tracy
Executive Director**

**New Summit Academy,
Costa Rica
January 2010**

Heather Tracy earned an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in language and psychology at St. Louis University where she was a Presidential Scholar. She then continued her studies at Harvard School of Education, earning a Master of Education in Human Development & Psychology with coursework and research focusing on at-risk youth. She is tri-lingual (French, English, and Spanish) and has lived in Costa Rica since January 2002.

Most recently, Heather set up and directed the academic college prep program at Coronado Academy, where she also taught English classes and served as school guidance counselor in matters of standardized tests and college applications. Heather is currently the executive director and co-owner for New Summit Academy which is an all boys boarding school for teenagers. Her goal is to enhance traditional skills needed for college in unique, interesting ways that are attractive to each student's particular learning strengths. With engagement in activities inside and outside the classroom, students are able to showcase their learning strengths, improve their learning weaknesses, earn confidence and curiosity for learning and produce work that lives up to their potential.



**Susan Floyd
School Director/
Administrator**

**North New Summit
School, Greenwood
January 2010**

Susan Floyd is the director of North New Summit School in Greenwood, Mississippi. She has been an educator for the past 20 years in public, private and adult education. In 2004, Susan was hired by Dr. Nancy New Boyll to begin a school, North New Summit School (NNSS), in Greenwood, Mississippi. NNSS was to be modeled after our sister school, New Summit School in Jackson, Mississippi, which is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of today's students and families. By recognizing the need for academics, North New Summit School has grown from 2 students to now a campus of approximately 75 students. Mrs. Floyd is married to David Floyd with whom she has two children, David and Kacey, ages 24 and 20.

Susan states, "Through the past 5 to 6 years I have been blessed to be a part of hiring an excellent certified staff that goes above and beyond to meet their students' needs. I have also been blessed to work with some of the best students and families in the Mississippi Delta!"

Employee of the Month
for
New Summit School, Jackson



**New Summit
School, Jackson**
January 2010

Dr. Merre Dorman
High School Instructor:
Employability Skills/Learning Strategies

Dr. Merre Dorman received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology Education from Valdosta State College in Georgia; a Master of Arts from the University of Southern Mississippi and her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University. Over the course of Dr. Dorman's career in education, she has developed and written curriculum programs for alternative education. She has designed testing programs for Adult Basic Education and utilized TABE results to attain positive program outcomes. She has had over forty plus years experience in educational consultant services, teaching in public/private schools and adult education. Presently, she is an instructor at New Summit School and is the first person you see each morning. Merre teaches learning strategies and career development to high school students. In addition, she is involved in the day treatment program, Kool Kids. The Kool Kids program transitions the students from academic and specific life skills into career opportunities.

Merre states "I have been so fortunate to go to work each morning knowing that I enjoy what I do. I would not change any of it."

Employee of the Month
for
North New Summit School, Greenwood



**North New Summit
School, Greenwood**
January 2010

Gay Mangum
NNSS Online Coordinator

Gay Mangum has been employed with North New Summit School for the past four years. Mrs. Mangum is married and has two children, Noah-27 and Adam-20. She began as the Receptionist/Secretary along with other job responsibilities. She has always had a passion for helping students and recently has been promoted to the online coordinator. Gay sponsors the newsletter and is involved in other student organizations. She encourages students to grow to their full academic potential.

Gay states, "I just want to give them something in return for what they have given me."

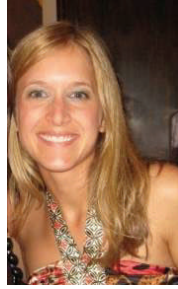
Employee of the Month for New Learning Resources Online



Michelle Dorsett
Director of
Online Services

New Learning Resources
Online
January 2010

Michelle Dorsett was raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology/Criminal Justice from Southeast Missouri State University. After graduating from college, she worked in a family counseling center where she counseled adolescents and adult females with substance abuse problems. Enjoying her work at the counseling center, Michelle decided she wanted to further her education and receive her Masters in Mental Health Counseling. She was accepted at Mississippi College and moved to Jackson in August of 2005. Michelle worked as a distance learning coordinator from August 2005 until February of 2008. In February, Michelle accepted the position as the Director of Online Services.



Victoria Wetzel
Director of
Curriculum

New Learning Resources
Online
January 2010

Victoria Wetzel grew up in San Carlos. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Oregon. Victoria continued her professional while in Italy for one year before returning to Portland, Oregon. Subsequently, she attended George Washington University where she pursued a Master's degree. In 2005, Victoria moved to Jackson and served as a Distance Learning Coordinator until 2007. Victoria currently serves as the Director of Curriculum Development for the New Learning Resources Online program.



What is success? To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty; To find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; That is to have succeeded.

- [Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

Employee of the Month for New Summit Academy, Costa Rica



**New Summit
Academy, Costa Rica**
January 2010

Ana Ortiz Therapist Assistant

Ana graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Cum Laude) from Arizona State University in December 2005. During her time at ASU, she completed a 2 year internship with the Anasazi Foundation, a non-profit wilderness treatment program for adolescents with substance abuse and emotional and behavioral problems. She also had the opportunity to do a work-study program at the Department of Psychology Child Study Lab earning her valuable learning experience in developmental psychology and case study research.

Having been born and raised in Mexico, spirituality has always played an important role in her life. As the years rolled by she had the opportunity to be exposed to a new culture. While living abroad in the US, she grew accustomed to gentle spiritual concepts. These concepts inspire her to continually seek the interconnectedness of all things and to strive to facilitate holistic well-being for those with whom she interacts.

In her current capacity as therapist assistant at NSA since January 2009, Anny continues to look forward to the opportunities NSA presents to her. In addition, she intends on pursuing a graduate degree in the near future to be able to assume more responsibilities. Ana brings an invaluable gentle, intelligent and nurturing presence to the NSA community. She is also a ready advocate to help students nurture their own curiosity and pursue their interests and passions. As an integral part of the interdepartmental team, Ana also enjoys being able to participate in integrated Aventuras, recreational activities and academic presentations.

Employee of the Month for Mississippi Community Education Center



**Mississippi Community
Education Center**
January 2010

Patsy Ross-Macon MCEC Trainer

Patsy Ross attended Harold Washington College in 1976. She began working for Continental Bank as a teller and moved from the teller position to Senior Teller and later advanced to Teller Supervisor. In 1989, she left Continental to work at Lake Shore Bank as Assistant Teller Manager, where she later became Teller Manager/Bank Officer. She worked for Lake Shore Bank, which later became 1st Chicago Bank and finally Bank-One. In 2000, Patsy worked for Sprint Wireless Service Department as a Customer Service Advocate. Providing quality customer service and exceeding the required needs of our customers were primary goals.

Mrs. Ross began working for Mississippi Community Education Center in 2004 as a secretary. Since 2004, Patsy has served a number of roles for MCEC including: Trainer, Office Manager and Program Coordinator. Patsy is vitally important to the success of MCEC as she provides workshops and trainings in Parenting, Health Marriage and Abstinence-Until-Marriage under the Families First Resource Center (FFRC) program as well as Lead Poison programming under the Childhood Lead Poison Prevention Program (CLPPP). She is instrumental in maintaining community relationships with partner organizations throughout Leflore County and the Delta; as well as building Community Coalition Boards for both FFRC and CLPPP.