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## **Council Honors Guilford County Schools Research Team with an Award**

WASHINGTON, July 18 –Guilford County Schools (GCS) in Greensboro, N.C., was recently presented with the “Informing Progress in Urban Education Award” at the Council of the Great Schools’ Curriculum, Research and Instructional Leaders Meeting in Chicago. Sponsored by NWEA, the award recognized the district for their work in examining the impact of Covid-19 on third grade reading proficiency.

The award was presented to the GCS research team: Chief Performance Officer Sonya T. Stephens, Ph.D., Director of Alternative Assessments Jeff Uhlenberg, and Data Strategist Enkhnasan Enkhbold.

“Many congratulations to the Guilford County research team, who continue to excel in demonstrating comprehensive and effective use and data and research across the system,” said Dr. Akisha Osei Sarfo, the Council’s director of research, who presented the award.

The “Informing Progress in Urban Education” Research Team Award is presented to a Council member district for demonstrating excellence in the field of research and evaluation across urban school districts. The award carries an expectation of continued/increased participation and responsibility, including contributing to Council’s efforts to improve research practices across our member districts.

Stephens has served as the Chief Performance Officer for GCS since 2021, where she oversees the district’s Division of Accountability & Research. She was a former senior director of school accountability in the Wake County Public School System and holds a doctorate in leadership for learning and service from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Stephens was a fellow in the Harvard University Strategic Data Project.

Jeff Uhlenberg has served as the Director of Alternative Assessments for GCS since 2020 and holds an Ed.S. in educational leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Enkhnasan Enkhbold has served as the Data Strategist for GCS since 2020 and holds a master’s degree in education from John Hopkins University.

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