

Press Release

For Immediate Release

**Penelope Allen  
Named a Finalist for Middle Level Student Council  
Adviser of the Year**

**Lafayette Middle School Teacher is One of Five to be named a  
Finalist for National Middle Level Adviser of the Year Award**

Oxford, MS (April 17, 2017) - Penelope "Penny" Allen at Lafayette Middle School in Oxford, MS, has been named a finalist for the 2017 Warren E. Shull Middle Level Student Council Adviser of the Year Award sponsored by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Allen is one of five (5) finalists from which a national level winner will be announced during the NASC National Conference in Derry, NH this summer.

Mrs. Allen is currently serving her eighth year as adviser for Lafayette Middle School Student Council. Allen is also serving her 6<sup>th</sup> year as Mississippi Association of Student Council Board Advisory member. Mrs. Allen, along with former LMS Student Council, Barrett Childress, represented middle schools on a national level by serving on the National Association of Student Council from 2014-2015. Under her guidance, LMS Student Council has received numerous awards at the state, regional, and national level. Anna Allen served as acting President of the Mississippi Association of Student Council at the national level while representing MS as a delegate at the NASC Conference in Las Vegas, NV. LMS Student Council members have represented the Southern Association of Student Council, SASC, which includes 15 states by being named SASC Middle Level Member of the Year, Macie Childers 2015 and Andrew Pugh 2016.

"The ability to motivate and encourage her students and leaders is, in fact, the most impactful quality that Mrs. Allen displays. She is able to take students that are typically fairly reserved and mold them into some of the best leaders ever seen in the middle grades, enabling them to win numerous awards. She is able to instill confidence in students not only to get out of their comfort zone and reach their full potential, but also to bring out the best in others," said LMS Assistant Principal Joseph Adams.

Andrew Pugh, LMS Student Council Co-President, wrote the following as part of the Warren E. Shull application: My advisor, Mrs. Penny Allen, is the best choice for the NASC Warren E. Shull award. She has made a huge impact on our council and our

school. She has created a very strong council in our school over her years as advisor. I've never seen someone so passionate and dedicated to doing something that helps others. She is also one of the most loving people I have ever met. Without Mrs. Allen, there is no way that our council would be as successful as we are. She has been right along our side helping us with absolutely anything and everything we need and she has helped us become the young men and women we are. This is my last year on the LMS Student Council and I'm overly excited to say I got to spend three years with such a great advisor. This is an amazing Adviser that needs to be named the 2017 NASC Warren E. Shull Middle Level Adviser of the Year.

"The finalists for the Warren E. Shull Award are skilled educators who epitomize the commitment student council advisers make to promote leadership, service, and civic engagement as qualities of good citizens through student council," said Ann Postlewaite, Direct of NASSP Student Programs. "NASC congratulates Penelope Allen for her exemplary efforts to nurture and develop these qualities in middle level students who are just beginning their journey as leaders."