



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

# Matters of Principal

## A Farewell from 2017 North Carolina Charter School Teacher of the Year Deborah Brown

This past year has been an honor to serve as North Carolina's Charter School Teacher of the Year. Far from a reward for being the "best" teacher, this has been a year of service to **represent** the best teachers and to be an ambassador for the nearly 200 charter schools in our state. I've had the chance to travel from the mountains to the sea and to visit some amazing programs and people. From high tech schools in the heart of our cities to start-ups working out of remodeled department



stores, charter schools are made up of dedicated teachers and school communities living into the mission that charters can be laboratories and incubators for the best and most innovative practices in contemporary education. Highlights of this year included being recognized by the Board of Education, attending a weeklong leadership seminar at the North Carolina Center for



the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT), and being a keynote speaker at the NCAPCS Annual Conference. I also spoke at several other events and venues including the [School Choice Rally](#) in Raleigh, being honored at the opening football game for NC State, and my favorite, riding the Zamboni at the Carolina Hurricanes intermission. I have been honored to share this journey with [Lisa Godwin](#), the 2017 NC State Teacher of the Year and with the entire State Teachers of the Year Regional team.



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

## Matters of Principal

### A Farewell from 2017 North Carolina Charter School Teacher of the Year Deborah Brown (cont.)



Along the way I've met some amazing people, from the youngest kindergarteners in brand new charter schools to Governor Roy Cooper at a special reception for teachers at the Governor's Mansion and former Governor Jim Hunt at the NC Honors Black Tie Banquet. My mission throughout this year has been to dispel the myths and misconceptions that often surround public charters and to lift the good work being done in the

trenches every day. My journey continues as I serve as the only charter school teacher appointed to Governor Cooper's Teacher Advisory Panel and as I travel this summer with Go Global NC as part of a North Carolina delegation of teachers to China, funded in part from a generous donation from the NC Association of Public Charter Schools. Thank you for this amazing opportunity, and even though I hand my "tiara" over to the very dedicated [Courtney Samuelson](#) from the Capitol Encore Academy, I hope to continue to represent the ideals of our charter school system and all the wonderful work our teachers and administrators do each day in support of the students of North Carolina.

