



Daniel Money

Principal

Burlington County Institute of Technology, Westampton Campus
695 Woodlane Road, Westampton, NJ 08060

Category: Secondary School Principal - Southern Region

Daniel Money, principal of Burlington County Institute of Technology for over a decade, has high expectations for everyone in his school. “We have a positive school climate because we as a school community unite under one shared expectation—each one of us, student, teacher, support staff and administrators, is a member of a learning community. We expect each member of the learning community to promote excellence.” Mr. Money served as a vice principal, administrative assistant, teaching coordinator, adjunct college professor and worked for the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office and the Ocean City Police Department before assuming the principalship at BCIT in 1990.

Dan Money earned a bachelor of arts degree in education, a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice and his master’s degree in school administration from Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). He holds professional memberships in NJPSA, NASSP, and the New Jersey African American Vocational Administrators Association.

Burlington County Institute of Technology is a comprehensive vocational-technical high school serving students from 38 sending districts. Dan Money’s vision for the school centers around preparing students to enter the workforce or to continue on to institutions of higher education. He developed this vision by using a three pronged approach: monitoring and mentoring first year teachers; giving staff the opportunity to participate in professional development programs; and providing a positive school climate for students, teachers, support staff and administrators. BCIT is the first full time vocational-technical high school in New Jersey to employ block scheduling. The block scheduling model employed at BCIT promotes high student achievement; all graduating seniors pass the HSPT, 100% of graduates are successfully placed in the workplace, the military or college and the school has received many state and national awards.

Dan Money believes that communication is the key to integrating home, school and community. He developed a monthly letter from the principal, revitalized the Parent Advisory Committee, provided a link to the business community by School-to-Work programs and includes all stakeholders in major decision making. His two major initiatives, block scheduling and a uniformly dressed policy, are successful because of his shared decision making process.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Walter J. Rudder, believes that Dan Money leads not manages; confronts issues effectively, brings people to consensus, is never satisfied with the status quo and is an example of professionalism. “The tone that Dan Money has set for BCIT Westampton is that of a learning environment where students are comfortable and challenged, and teachers are viewed as the professionals who make the difference in the lives of students.”

As student Gregory Gayle says, “Mr. Money has not only made a difference in my high school career, but has truly made a difference in my life. He has been a mentor to me. Under his supervision, my leadership abilities have grown.”



Louis Della Barca

Principal

Clayton J. Davenport Elementary School

2501 Spruce Avenue, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Category: Elementary Principal - Southern Region

Louis Della Barca has worked in the Egg Harbor Township schools for over 30 years, and has been a principal for over 25 years. He became principal of Clayton J. Davenport School, the only Title 1 elementary building in the district, in 1998. “The mission of the Clayton J. Davenport School,” says DellaBarca, “is to provide a positive environment for all students attending our kindergarten, first, second, third and multi-age classes. We care for our students by providing numerous opportunities for success academically, socially and emotionally.”


He earned his bachelor’s degree from Trenton State College, master’s degree from Newark State College and completed additional graduate credits at Glassboro State College. He is a member of NJPSA, NAESP, NEA, ASCD, Egg Harbor Township Principals and Supervisors Association, Cape/Atlantic Principals and Supervisors Association and the southern NJ Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa at Richard Stockton College.

In order to ensure that the school’s mission of “Every Child Can Learn” is followed, DellaBarca, a past NJPSA president, implemented a grade level team approach in planning appropriate programs for students. Grade level meetings, where each student’s progress is monitored, and training of staff in Cooperative Learning, Multiple Intelligences and Brain Based Learning are part of the plan to facilitate the school’s mission. The school received a Statewide Systemic Initiative Grant to train teachers in the Standards Based Science models and was honored by the NJ Department of Education with a best practice Award for “The Doorway to Unlimited Learning” program. The “Let’s Create a Masterpiece” program received a grant from the Alliance Arts Education/NJ State Council for the Arts. The students involved in the Multi-Age project have shown positive social and academic gains. As part of the NJ Professional Teaching Standards Board, DellaBarca also supports professional development for all teachers.

Clayton J. Davenport School has the most diversified student body at the primary grade level in the district. DellaBarca uses this diversity to instill understanding to benefit all students. He implemented a Parent Volunteer Program to improve relationships between teachers, students, and parents and has developed strong ties with local businesses, which assist the school with their time and donations.

“Lou has shown a tremendous knowledge of curriculum, student achievement and programs. He has demonstrated this by continually updating programs to address the diversified learning styles of his student body. He is the consummate professional who gives of himself freely and is totally dedicated to our organization,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Leonard Kelpsh.

One of Lou’s third grade students says it best. “Mr. Della Barca works hard to make our school a happy place to be. I am very blessed to have Mr. Della Barca as our principal.”



Margaret A. Zycinsky
Principal
Birches Elementary School
416 Westminster Boulevard, Turnersville, NJ 08012
Category: Elementary Principal - Southern Region

Margaret Zycinsky is the principal of Birches Elementary School in Turnersville. “I see myself as a change agent,” she says, “a person who facilitates change or a planned innovation. I strive to build positive working relationships and have found that working cooperatively and planning collaboratively are essential in the change process.”


Earning both her undergraduate and master’s degrees at Rowan University, she became an elementary teacher in the Washington Township school district in 1968. She also served as an assistant principal, administrative intern, and an assistant superintendent for curriculum/instruction before accepting the principalship at Birches in 1994. Zycinsky holds professional memberships in ASCD, Washington Township Principals Association, NJASCD, American Association for School Administrators, Gloucester County Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, Principals’ Center for the Garden state, Phi Delta Kappa, National Council of Social studies, Reading Council of Southern New Jersey and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The mission of Birches School is to enable its students to develop their self-worth through interpersonal skills, while promoting positive attitudes, fostering honesty, integrity, academic excellence and good citizenship. The Birches School boasts a motto of Excellence in Education. Principal Zycinsky outlined a plan to gain higher achievement levels on the ESPA Language Arts Literacy test in 1999 by implementing a professional development program which strengthened collaboration and collegiality while providing continual assistance and support to try new ideas in the classrooms. The result has been a shift from 45.6% passing the ESPA Language Arts Literacy Test to 90.8% passing in 2001.

Ms. Zycinsky meets with all students each year and outlines her expectations for student behavior and the district’s Zero Tolerance Policy. A character education program, Wise Skills, was initiated to help students to be wise and make good choices. Her infusion of technology across the curriculum has increased the staff’s ability to use the computer as a teaching tool to enhance learning and engage students.

Ms. Zycinsky seeks creative ways to include the community and parents in school activities. Through programs such as the Homework Club, Family Math, Family Science and Family Literacy, Ms. Zycinsky encourages parent input into school improvement programs. Through the Children Designing & Engineering Project, School to Career program, Hoops for Heart, Gift of Giving and Pioneer Day, the children at Birches school, under Zycinsky’s leadership, are linked between the education and business communities. Birches School is also one of only 700 schools to receive recognition as a “Do Something National Champion School,” a national initiative in which students perform acts of kindness and justice to improve their school and community.

As Superintendent Thomas Flemming says of Zycinsky, “Through her hands-on leadership style and caring spirit, she has created an atmosphere at the Birches School that is positive, accepting and conducive to learning for children of all abilities levels.”



Dr. Kathleen Pecoraro
Principal
Liberty Corner School
61 Church Street, Liberty Corner, NJ 07938
Category: Elementary Principal - Central Region

Dr. Kathleen Pecoraro has been an elementary principal since 1996. She began her career as a teacher in the New York City Public Schools in the mid sixties. In 1985, Pecoraro taught first grade at Oak Street School in Bernards Township. She was there for 14 years before becoming principal at Liberty Corner School.


A graduate of Oswego State University, Pecoraro earned her master's degree from Kean University and received her doctorate from Seton Hall University. "The principal," she says, "as the educational leader, must be the visionary who can see the possibilities and potential in staff, students and curriculum. Understanding that such a philosophy requires substantial risk-taking is the challenge that makes the principalship a pivotal position in a school." Pecoraro belongs to NJPSA, NAESP, ASCD, and the Somerset County Association of Elementary School Principals.

Liberty Corner School has had 36 new teachers join the staff in the last three years. Dr. Pecoraro and her staff spend significant time mentoring new teachers to promote student achievement. An in-house mentoring program in which novice teachers are paired with veteran teachers, as well as ample staff development time, go far beyond the state minimum requirements. She encourages teachers to improve their skills through district sponsored staff development training or graduate level courses. She has an "open door" policy with all teachers, students and parents. Because of principal Pecoraro's leadership style, teachers believe that Liberty Corner School is a community that learns together.

Dr. Pecoraro implemented a flexible schedule for library and computer classes which resulted in the program being adopted in all district elementary schools. She supports the Seeing Eye Dog project, as well as Nature Trail, Hero Day, peer coaching, student led parent conferences and Journey North.

She greets students in the morning, writes to them daily in a Principal's Journal and reinforces a positive climate of learning. Besides reviewing each student's report card, Dr. Pecoraro attends all PAC (Pupil Assistance Committee) meetings. She strongly supports the presence of parents in the classroom and encourages her staff to utilize them. Dr. Pecoraro, referred to as "Kathy" by parents and staff, has worked hard to make Liberty Corner school an outstanding place to study and work.

As Valerie Goger, Superintendent of Schools says, "Dr. Pecoraro has a strong vision of what is good for students and the courage and work ethic to implement that vision. As a strong advocate of life-long learning, she aggressively pursues personal improvement and earned her doctorate while working the arduous hours of a school principal. She is a woman of integrity and passion for her work with children."



Anne Marie Weber
Principal
Montgomery High School
375 Burnt Hill Road, Skillman, NJ 08558
Category: Secondary Principal - Central Region


Anne Marie Weber has been the principal of Montgomery High School since 1988. “The mission of Montgomery High School, “she says, “ is to create an environment for the pursuit of excellence for all students and faculty. Our students directly benefit from our enthusiastic approach to creating engaging instructional activities.” Previously serving as the school’s vice principal, Weber also was a coordinator of Alternative Education at East Side Academy in New Brunswick, and a Coordinator of Student Activities/Work Experience Program and English teacher at New Brunswick High School.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Weber earned her master’s degree at Monmouth University. A member of the NASSP Larger Secondary Schools Committee, Weber also is a member of NJPSA, ASCD, Somerset County Secondary School Principals Association and the Association of Principals and Supervisors of Montgomery Township.

By setting high standards, reworking the curriculum, adding advanced placement courses, and developing a student centered program of studies, Ms. Weber took Montgomery High School to a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence designation. At a time when the school is experiencing rapid growth, it still continues to be recognized for academic excellence in a large school setting. Evidence of her success can be measured by major curriculum initiatives that include in-class support, inquiry based science with freshmen level physics, six levels of world languages, technology infusion across the curriculum and support for the fine arts. The expansion of the co-curricular program includes Model U.N., Mock Trial and Science Olympiad.

Engaging parents and the community in school activities has resulted in increased parental attendance at meetings and events and the school has ongoing educational relationships with Johnson & Johnson, Bristol Myers Squibb, Convatec, 3-M, Bloomberg and Princeton Hospital. Evidence of corporate support includes “Senior Seminar,” a program designed to give students the opportunity to learn about decision making in the workplace. This event is supported by the Rotary Club. A \$30,000 grant from Bristol Myers Squibb resulted in the implementation of an inquiry based science program for all students. For the last four years, Montgomery’s Science Olympiad Team has captured the state title and has represented New Jersey at national competitions.

“Anne Marie Weber is the embodiment of an exceptional school leader. Mrs. Weber has built a staff that recognizes that a school needs to be “full service” in nature. Students should have opportunities to excel and succeed in all areas. She has provided leadership that has promoted significant student success,” said Dr. Stuart Schnur, Superintendent of Schools.



Anita Codey
Principal
Bernardsville Middle School
141 Seney Drive, Bernardsville, NJ 07924
Category: Middle School Principal- Central Region

Anita Codey is the principal of Bernardsville Middle School. In July 2000, when she joined the Somerset Hills School District as principal, she immediately went to work and introduced a literacy block, which doubled the language arts time for grades seven and eight. The benefits included increased student contact time and emphasis on reading and writing across the curriculum in support of district and state goals to improve proficiencies. “Bernardsville Middle School’s mission,” she says, “is that we will inspire all students to have a passion for learning by providing imaginative educational experiences within a challenging, supportive environment that prepares them to think and communicate so they can create their own futures and serve their communities.” In her twenty one years of service in education, she has served thirteen years as a principal, and the rest as a curriculum coordinator, reading specialist, and Grade 5 teacher.

A graduate of St. Joseph’s College, she earned her master’s degree in education at Seton Hall University and went on to earn her principal’s certification from the College of New Jersey. She is a member of NASSP, ASCD and NMSA.


As a new principal in 2000, Codey quickly learned about the past and present of the district and the school, attended all Board of Education meetings and reviewed all curricula, tests date, schedules and staff. Ms. Codey’s efforts at Bernardsville Middle School have resulted in heightened morale, civic pride and improved academic performance. This can be seen by the GEPA test results rising from 81.7% to 94.3%. She challenges and expects all students and staff to do their best.

As a recipient of both the Geraldine R. Dodge Fellowship for School Leaders in 1994 and Reaching for the Stars in 1999, Codey recognizes the three main characteristics of what makes good leaders: it takes superb human relations skills, strong management skills and sound technical skills.

Ms. Codey sets high standards for all by embracing President Bush’s “No Child left Behind” pledge. She has integrated several after school programs to include mandatory homework assistance, tutoring, and academic clubs. BMS is also a leader in developing school and community relationships, with every student in the school completing a minimum of two hours of volunteer service. Community service opportunities include over ten ways in which students can volunteer their time. She established an assistant principal position which has had the added benefit of providing opportunities for Ms. Codey to have a more strategic presence in the school and community.

Bernardsville Middle School is on a journey now towards excellence in anticipation of the self-assessment process of the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence application for 2002-2003.

Raymond D. Gualtieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, says, “Ms. Codey’s number one priority is that of exemplary instructional practices. Her educational vision, when combined with her expertise in curriculum development and extremely effective oral and written communication skills make her an invaluable asset to the Somerset Hills School District.”



Christiner Carter-Betts
Principal
Madison Elementary School
823 South 16th Street, Newark, NJ 07108
Category: Elementary Principal - Northern Region

Christiner Carter-Betts is the principal of the Madison Elementary School in Newark. The central focus at Madison Elementary is to foster an environment that is caring, safe and conducive to learning. Despite the fact that a very large percentage of Madison's students are not living with their biological parents, that the neighborhood around the school is saturated with the many ills associated with urban communities and that 100% of them receive free lunch, Madison's Elementary School is a place where academic achievement thrives. "We make the best possible use of all available resources in order to foster a safe, learning based climate," says Carter-Betts. She has spent over 25 years in Newark, beginning as a teacher in 1974. She also worked as a Reading Lab specialist and vice principal before assuming the principalship of Madison elementary in 1989.


A graduate of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical University, Carter Betts earned her master's degree at Kean College and was awarded certificates from Christchurch College, Teachers College and the State of New Jersey. She is a member of NAESP, the National Association of Black School Educators, and the City Association of Supervisors and Administrators.

Under Carter-Betts leadership, the staff at Madison is committed to implementation of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. Great emphasis is placed on the whole school reform model Success for All, Project GRAD, Communities in Schools and Consistency Management/Cooperative Discipline. She sets high expectations for her students and staff and is focused on student learning. Her demonstrated ability to run an effective school led to recognition by the South Ward Clinton Hill Improvement Association as a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. award recipient.

A visionary principal, Carter-Betts recruits teachers through the alternate route plan and gives them the guidance and support to become fully certified teachers. She also firmly believes in professional development for her staff and encourages staff to share information.

Carter-Betts has established parent and community involvement in the school through Communities In Schools of Newark, Inc., The Do Something Program, and through partnerships with the Beulah Baptist Church, the Parent Teacher Organization and Parent Academy.

As Magalys Carrillo, Assistant Superintendent says, "As an exceptional principal, Mrs. Carter-Betts consistently inspires children and adults to do their very best. She is consistently focused on student learning and sets high expectations for staff and students,"



Earl Kim
Principal
Emerson Junior-Senior High School
Main Street, Emerson, NJ 07630
Category: Secondary Principal - Northern Region


When Earl Kim became principal of Emerson Junior-Senior High School, his first order of business was to restore trust and communication between all constituencies of the school community. Emerson had four principals in eight years and communication with parents had suffered due to the many transitions in leadership. One of the first goals that Mr. Kim undertook was to engage representatives of all stakeholders in developing a mission statement for the school. The result was that a “good” school began to see itself as in the process of becoming a “great” school. “Not to detract from the remarkable efforts and achievements of the school community,” says Kim, “ultimately change occurs when a school leader builds consensus around a vision, encourages innovation to achieve that end, and engenders a spirit of accountability for results.”

Because only two and three fifths administrators handle all the day to day functions for the school, Emerson runs a tight ship. There are no department chairpersons. Staff participation in the daily management of the school was essential for their block scheduling program, award winning science and public engagement programs, broad inclusion of special needs students, increases in test performance, expansion of co-curricular participation and revamping of elective offerings. Kim believes that all staff members, from administrators to custodians, must understand the teaching and learning mission of the school. Kim also stresses the importance of professional development for all staff, and during the year many programs are offered that have been chosen by the Professional Development Committee. He strongly encourages creativity and the concomitant risk taking on the part of the faculty.

Several initiatives undertaken under Mr. Kim’s leadership include: Community based Learning initiatives; school community partnerships; integration of technology; programs to address low achieving students’ needs; implementation of a developmental guidance program; and the tracking of data on student achievement.

Mr. Kim was named principal of the school in 1996. He served as assistant principal there from 1993 through 1996. His career also included time as a math teacher at Trenton Central High School and a United States Marine officer. A graduate of Cornell University, Mr. Kim earned his master’s degree from Princeton University. Kim is a member of NJPSA, NASSP, the Bergen County Secondary School Principals & Supervisors Association, NJSTA and AMTNJ.

“To date, there is solid empirical evidence that the leadership and dedication of Earl Kim have made a significant impact on Emerson Junior/Senior High School. Earl has made school renewal an ongoing process and has built a body of data on which to measure progress.” Said Superintendent of Schools, Charles V. Montesano, Ed.D.



Joseph Pompeo
Principal
Wallington High School
234 Main Avenue, Wallington, NJ 07057
Category: Secondary Principal - Northern Region

Joseph M. Pompeo is the principal of Wallington High School, located in Bergen County. Pompeo began his career as a business teacher in 1976. Teaching until 1988, he was named the assistant principal at Bogota High School in 1988. He served there for two years before assuming the principalship at Wallington High School in 1990. A graduate of Rutgers University, Pompeo earned certification from St. Peter's College, a master's degree from Jersey City State College and an MBA from Montclair State University. He is presently in the doctoral program at Rutgers University. A past president of the Bergen County Secondary School Principals and Supervisors Association, he also holds memberships in NJPSA, NASSP, ASCD, and the Bergen County Administrators Coalition.

The mission of the school is the development of the intellectual, emotional and social capabilities of each individual. In order to support and promote a healthy school climate, Pompeo utilizes student assemblies, the Academic Booster Club, Student of the Week program, Family Night, Academic Solutions Group Program, Teacher of the Month, Pat on the Back, and inclusion of a citizenship grade on the report card. During Pompeo's tenure, the number of students who attend post secondary schools has risen, along with the number of students who attain honor roll status. Disciplinary referrals have decreased and the attendance rate has been above the state average for the past five years.

Well versed with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards with the ultimate goal of increasing the scores on state assessments, Mr. Pompeo uses the frameworks in his classroom observations, and faculty and department meetings. "The adoption of the Core Curriculum Content Standards has led to revision of all curricular offerings and appropriate revisions were implemented in order to meet state benchmarks," said Pompeo. The use of technology throughout the building has enhanced the standards with such programs as Get A Life, Toxics to Taxes, The Utopia Project, and Grade Nine Project. All faculty members are required to instruct at least one technology based lesson per month and technology serves as a tool for students to access information.

In order to increase parental involvement in a primarily blue collar, largely Eastern European population, Pompeo initiated Parent Advisory Groups and all mailings are in Polish and English. Spearheading the Budget Drive Committee, Pompeo is proud that for the first time in 30 years the school budget was passed.

Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, says, "Mr. Pompeo has displayed the ability to work well with new and experienced staff, students, parents, community members and fellow administrators. In each case, he has helped create a positive learning environment, which fosters growth and productivity in others."