

Principal Muriel Summers



A. B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary embodies a learning-centered model that strives for leadership development in its students based on Dr. Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. It is the only magnet school to have been honored as the #1 Magnet School in America, in 2006 and then in 2014. The leadership model at A.B. Combs gained widespread recognition in 2008 through Dr. Covey's book *The Leader in Me*, and since the program's conception in 1999, it has been replicated in over 2,400 schools around the world.

Muriel Summers is a graduate of UNC-CH with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She holds a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from UNC-Charlotte and a Masters in School Administration from The University of Maryland. She received an honorary doctorate in 2011 from California University for her contributions in Leadership Development. As principal of A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School, Muriel Summers and her staff created the first leadership elementary school in the nation using Franklin Covey's 7 Habits program as a foundation. A.B. Combs is a diverse elementary school, boasting children from 64 countries. By recognizing that each student possesses unique gifts and talents and building on students' strengths rather than their weaknesses, Muriel and the other faculty guide students at A.B. Combs to continually achieve higher levels of academic performance year after year. Muriel's school has been featured on several national television programs including PBS, Good Morning America, and The Oprah Winfrey Show. A.B. Combs is also featured in Dr. Stephen Covey's

books *The 8th Habit* and *The Leader in Me*. She has co-authored the 2nd edition of *The Leader in Me* that was released in August 2014. During her tenure at A.B. Combs, Muriel and her staff have earned numerous awards for her school, including the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, the Number One National Magnet School in America once in 2006 and again in 2014, the National Title 1 Distinguished School, the National Elementary School of the Year, the North Carolina Honor School of Excellence, the North Carolina Governor's Entrepreneurial Award, and the National School of Character Award. Muriel started her career in the field of education 37 years ago. During that time she has served as a classroom teacher, demonstration teacher, instructional resource teacher, assistant principal, and principal. She has received numerous awards in the field of education from Teacher of the Year to Principal of the Year. In 2009, she was named as one of the North Carolina Women to Watch. Muriel presents at national, state, and local conferences and consults with school districts nationally and internationally. Most recently her influence has been felt in Brazil, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand, Japan, China, Thailand, Denmark, Puerto Rico, and India.

Additional Information on Principal Muriel Summers can be found at the links below:

http://www.soe.unc.edu/news_events/alumni_news/2014/141202-muriel-summers.php

<http://franklincoveyspeakersbureau.com/public/files/MurielSummers.pdf>

http://www.theleaderinme.org/uploads/Documents/promo/TLIM_Speakers_Brochure.pdf

AB Combs Elementary homepage:

<http://www.wcpss.net/combses>