



**DR. LAWRENCE C. HAWKINS**  
**EDUCATOR of the YEAR**  
**AWARD**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Western & Southern Financial Group Names Finalists for  
Tenth Annual Educator of the Year Award**

CINCINNATI — April 7, 2016 — Western & Southern Financial Group (Western & Southern) has announced 20 finalists for the 2016 Dr. Lawrence C. Hawkins Educator of the Year Award. The award, established by Western & Southern in 2007, honors one educator each year in Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) who has elevated the educational process in the district to an exceptional level through personal commitment, dedicated focus and outstanding results.

Finalists for 2016 were chosen from nominations submitted by CPS teachers and administrators.

**Ryan Casey**

Carson School

**Peggy Marrs**

Kilgour School

**Carmie Chambers**

Roberts Academy

**Jennifer Miller**

Rockdale Academy

**Joseph Ciani**

Gilbert A. Dater High School

**Shauna Murphy**

Woodward Career Technical High School

**Paul Daniels**

Withrow University High School

**Deidre Simpson**

Evanston Academy

**Melissa Estell**

Woodford Paideia Academy

**Lillian Sims**

Shroder High School

**Rolinda Gaither**

Aiken High School

**Andrea Sponsler**

Mount Washington School

**Teri Hiudt**

Dater Montessori School

**Elizabeth Thole**

Western Hills University High School

**Kraig Hoover**

Cincinnati Public Schools

**Belinda Tubbs Wallace**

Rockdale Academy

**Debra Hutchinson**

Aiken High School

**Lisa Votaw**

Aiken High School

**Leslie Lyles**

Hartwell School

**Gwendolyn Womack**

Taft Information Technology High School

The recipient of the 2016 award will be announced May 3 at a ceremony and reception hosted by Western & Southern at The Guilford Institute on its downtown Cincinnati campus. The award winner will receive a personal check for \$10,000 from Western & Southern.

“One of the most important challenges facing our society today is preparing our children for the future. Western & Southern recognizes the role educators and administrators in Cincinnati Public Schools play in directly impacting our children’s future through their guidance and teaching,” said John F. Barrett, chairman, president and chief executive officer for Western & Southern. “The Dr. Lawrence C. Hawkins Educator of the Year Award is a way for us to celebrate these educators for their commitment to inspiring Cincinnati’s children to excel in the classroom and beyond.”

Past recipients of the award (listed with their schools at time of award):

- Krista Taylor, Gamble Montessori High School, 2015
- Mary Beth Platen, Fairview-Clifton German Language School, 2014
- Harrison Collier, Jr., Walnut Hills High School, 2013
- Kathleen Donohoue, Saylor Park Elementary, 2012
- Barbara J. James, Riverview East Academy, 2011
- Nancy L. Johnson, CPS Turnaround Team, 2010
- Angela Roddy, a consulting teacher for CPS, 2009
- Kimya Moyo, Aiken College & Career High School, 2008
- Sharon Johnson, Withrow University High School, 2007

Western & Southern’s inspiration for establishing the award in 2007 was Dr. Lawrence C. Hawkins, a renowned educator in Cincinnati who served as a distinguished member of the Western & Southern board of directors for many years. Hawkins, a member of the elite Tuskegee Airmen, earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Cincinnati, as well as a doctorate in education. He worked as both an educator and administrator at CPS before joining the University of Cincinnati faculty where he founded the College of Community Affairs. He was promoted to vice president of continuing education and metropolitan affairs and then again to executive vice president of administration. Hawkins served on several local community and business boards and was named a Great Living Cincinnati in 1989 by The Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

#### **About Western & Southern Financial Group**

Founded in Cincinnati in 1888 as The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Western & Southern Financial Group, Inc. (Western & Southern), a *Fortune* 500 company, is now the parent company of a group of diversified financial services businesses. Its assets owned (more than \$42 billion) and managed (\$24 billion) total more than \$66 billion as of Dec. 31, 2015. Western & Southern is one of the strongest life insurance groups in the world. Its six life insurance subsidiaries (The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Western-Southern Life Assurance Company, Columbus Life Insurance Company, Integrity Life Insurance Company, The Lafayette Life Insurance Company and National Integrity Life Insurance Company) maintain very strong financial ratings and a Comdex Ranking\* of 96. Other member companies include Eagle Realty Group, LLC; Fort Washington Investment Advisors, Inc.<sup>1</sup>; IFS Financial Services, Inc.; Peppertree Partners LLC<sup>1</sup>; Touchstone Advisors, Inc.<sup>1</sup>; Touchstone Securities, Inc.<sup>2</sup>; W&S Brokerage Services, Inc.<sup>2</sup>; and W&S Financial Group Distributors, Inc. For more information on the Western & Southern family of companies, visit [www.westernsouthern.com](http://www.westernsouthern.com). Western & Southern is the title sponsor of the Western & Southern Open ([www.wsopen.com](http://www.wsopen.com)), a premier event in the U.S. Open Series played each August by the world’s top-ranked professional male and female tennis players.

\* *Lafayette Life has a 97 Comdex Ranking.*

<sup>1</sup> *A registered investment advisor.*

<sup>2</sup> *A registered broker-dealer and member FINRA/SIPC.*

*For current ratings, please visit <http://www.westernsouthern.com/industry.asp>.*

#### **About Cincinnati Public Schools**

Cincinnati Public Schools offers families more high-quality school choices and academic programs than any other district in the Tri-state region. CPS is a leader among Ohio’s eight large-city school districts in overall student performance. The district’s innovative approach to education, investment in effective and caring teachers, and vast array of collaborative partnerships have accelerated school performance to the highest level in decades – ensuring that its 34,000 students in preschool to grade 12 thrive and graduate prepared to lead successful lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. CPS operates 55 schools spread across 90 square miles. To learn more, visit [cps-k12.org](http://cps-k12.org).