

## **Bibb County School District & Teacher Recognized by International Organization**



*(l-r) Porter Elementary Principal Dr. Russ Chesser, Superintendent Sharon Patterson, Porter Elementary VIF teacher Amanda Wheeler, King-Danforth Elementary VIF Teacher Sheril Smith, Teacher Recruitment Specialist Shannon Dotsikas, and VIF President David Young.*

The Visiting International Faculty (VIF) Program has named Bibb County its School District of the Year for Georgia and Porter Elementary teacher Amanda Wheeler as a Georgia Cultural Educator of the Year.

A reception was hosted at Bernd Elementary to recognize Mrs. Wheeler and the District on April 17, and special guests included Superintendent Sharon Patterson, VIF President David Young, and VIF teachers with their principals. Later that evening at their April Board Meeting, Mr. Young recognized the Board of Education for their efforts.

The VIF Program sponsors teachers from around the world to teach in U.S. schools, and the Bibb County School District has partnered with them the past three years to provide students with an opportunity to learn about other cultures first-hand. In the 2007-2008 school year, almost 30 teachers have come to Bibb County from countries such as Jamaica, Australia, China, and

Romania.

“The new perspectives and techniques that teachers from different countries bring to their U.S. schools help expand instruction to encompass broader and more diverse points of view that help prepare our students for an increasingly interconnected world,” said Mr. Young.

“We are preparing our students for a global world through the VIF teachers,” said Superintendent Sharon Patterson. “The experiences and culture they bring into our students’ lives are invaluable.”

According to the VIF Program, the District was selected because Superintendent Patterson, principals, teachers, and the Human Resources staff all welcomed the VIF teachers with open arms and strived to work with them to make a smooth transition to Macon.

Amanda Wheeler, originally from Australia, has completed her second year at Porter Elementary and the United States, and she readily shares her culture with her students while working to have a significant impact on their achievement.

“To be given the freedom to incorporate the cultural aspects in to my classes has been great,” said Mrs. Wheeler. “Thank you for the opportunity; I’ve taught some wonderful kids here.”

In 2007, the VIF Program recognized Donna Jackson as the VIF Principal of the Year for Georgia.

### **Belief**

*We will work to help each student achieve high standards of learning because we believe all students can learn.*

### **Vision**

*Achievement and Performance for Every Child, Every Classroom, and Every School*

### **Mission**

*Our Mission is to provide a high quality education for all Bibb County in a safe and comfortable environment, and to make use of all human and technological resources in preparing graduates for post-high school objectives.*