

2018 TRS Board of Control Election Candidate Biographies

Dr. Susan Williams Brown, the incumbent postsecondary member of the Retirement Systems of Alabama Teachers' Retirement Board of Control, has been employed in public education in Alabama for 39 years and has served on the TRS Board of Control for eighteen years. She has served as a member of the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) Executive Committee for five years. In addition, Susan has served as co-chair of the NCTR Legislative Committee. She has been employed with Gadsden State Community College as a mathematics instructor since 1990. Dr. Brown received her A.S. Degree from Snead State Junior College, her B.S. and M.S. in mathematics education from Jacksonville State University, and her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Alabama. She is a member of the Gadsden State Math Readiness Team and currently serves as an alternate to the National Education Association Board of Directors as well as president of the Postsecondary Division of the Alabama Education Association. Dr. Brown is a former member of the Alabama Postsecondary Advisory Committee on Policy Matters and former United Way Loaned Executive.

Dr. Waymon E. Burke teaches history and political science at Calhoun Community College's Research Park Campus. He has taught for 45 years in the Huntsville City Schools and Calhoun. He and his wife are both Huntsville natives. Dr. Burke is actively involved in the local community where he serves on the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Board (since 1999) and the North Alabama Educators Credit Union Board. He co-hosts "Guerilla Politics," a weekly television show on WAAY TV where he advocates for teachers and state employees. As an advocate for education issues, he is a past president of the Calhoun Faculty Senate and a life-time member of NEA, AEA, and CEA. Recent honors include the DAR National Preservation of History Award in 2015, and an Abby Award from the Alabama Broadcasters Association for Best Local Television Programming in 2018. Dr. Burke earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama and graduate and undergraduate degrees from Alabama A&M, Montevallo, and Calhoun. He graduated from New Hope High School in 1969. In all his roles, he is a proud advocate for hard-working educators and state employees.