In December 2014 Dr. Ernie Adkins, principal at Princeton Primary School, was named a Milken Educator Award winner and will receive a personal check for $25,000 from the Milken Family Foundation. His colleagues and supervisors indicate that he knows how to make a difference in schools and he is dedicated to student success under every circumstance, including challenging ones unique to most principals. He has a proven record of raising the performance of schools where he has been a teacher or administrator. In his first year as a vice-principal, his school achieved the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmark for the first time ever, due in large part to his interventions and successful team-building among faculty, even as the campus was undergoing major renovations that were disruptive to the school day. At Princeton Primary, his current school, 90% of students are reading at or above grade level by the end of kindergarten, giving them the best foundation for ongoing academic success. Adkins has been principal at Princeton Primary since it opened three years ago, and has led the new campus to an auspicious beginning.

The Milken Educator Award is the nation’s preeminent teacher recognition program. More than 2,600 exemplary teachers, principals and specialists have been surprised with individual, unrestricted $25,000 prizes since 1987. Recipients are heralded early to mid-career for what they have achieved—and for the promise of what they will accomplish in the future. Honorees join the national Milken Educator Network, a group whose expertise is a valuable resource to those shaping the future of education.

Dr. Adkins is a graduate of Marshall's Education Leadership MA and EdD programs and Dr. Mike Cunningham, COEPD, Leadership Studies, was Dr. Adkins doctoral committee chair.
Dr. Mike Cunningham, COEPD, Leadership Studies and Dr. Ernie Adkins.