

## Administrators raise money to attend Model Schools event

By Stephen Dethrage  
Staff Writer

Administrators at Huntington Place Elementary School are close to wrapping up a fundraising campaign to send some of their faculty to Orlando, Florida, this summer to present at the 26th Annual Model Schools Conference.

The Tuscaloosa County Commission voted Wednesday morning to give Huntington Place Principal Andrea Hamner \$2,500 to help offset the cost of attending the conference. The money will come from the district development funds of Commissioner Stan Acker.

Hamner said the school has already received several private donations and hosted a fundraiser event at Chick-fil-A in Northport. With the commission's contribution, she needs to raise around \$2,000 more to fully fund the



Huntington Place Elementary School celebrates its America's Healthiest School Award on Nov. 14, 2017, with University of Alabama mascot Big Al. Administrators at the school are raising money to attend this summer's 26th Annual Model Schools Conference in Orlando, Florida. [STAFF PHOTO/GARY COSBY JR.]



# SCHOOL

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trip.

Hamner said Huntington Place is the first Tuscaloosa County school to be invited to make a presentation at the conference. She credited that achievement to a culture that makes education engaging and interesting for students.

"We're super-excited about the opportunity to be able to present at the Model Schools Conference," Hamner said Wednesday. "This is a huge honor for our school and our school system."

At the conference in June, Hamner and eight other Huntington staff members would join 5,000 educators at the Orlando World Center Marriott to share the secrets of their schools' success.

Hamner said the Huntington faculty plans to give a presentation on the steps they took to increase the school's attendance rate to 96 percent and to raise the math and reading test scores of its students.

"We've been implementing strategies from the International Center for Teaching and Learning for the last few years," Hamner said. "Now we're able to go show others the things we've put in place and how that's led to great success in our school."

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