Escambia County Public Schools Cody Strother Coordinator - Communications <u>cstrother@ecsdfl.us</u> <u>850-469-6136</u> (Office) ECPS NEWS RELEASE May 15, 2023

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Brown Barge Middle School to Dedicate Gymnasium to Former Educator

Pensacola, FL - The School Advisory Committee of Brown-Barge Middle School, alumni, former faculty and staff, and colleagues recently were granted the authority to name the gymnasium at Brown-Barge Middle School, the Camille Barr Gymnasium.

Camille Barr served as principal of Brown-Barge Middle School from 1987 to 1997 where she established the nationally and internationally recognized integrative curriculum model still in place at Brown-Barge today.

Ms. Barr is a visionary whose passion and uncompromising commitment to integrative curriculum and school-based management allowed her to attract a dedicated faculty who shared her vision. She understood that curriculum reform and sustained improvement is a process that requires commitment, and she was able to instill in others the confidence and commitment to keep the program moving forward even in the face of adversity. Camille Barr inspired her faculty to embrace the process for the long haul, and with passion, history, and data on their side, the integrated curriculum at Brown-Barge Middle School remains an invaluable asset to the Escambia County Public Schools.

Additionally, Ms. Barr has shared the successful curriculum model at Brown-Barge Middle School and the model of continuous improvement by welcoming researchers and educators from across the country to visit the school. Visitors left with insights and the understanding that successful change to create high quality middle level schools is possible. Brown-Barge Middle School became a benchmark for that process, and Camille Barr and the Brown-Barge program have been featured in numerous professional journal articles and monographs. Camille Barr's contributions to education and her community have earned her honors and recognition for her work. Among these awards are Principal of the Year for the State of Florida, and the Betty Castor Award, among others.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 23 at 2:30 pm in the gymnasium. Brown Barge Middle School is located at 201 Hancock Lane in Pensacola.



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