

Woodrow Wilson Leonard, Jr. Woodrow Wilson Leonard, Jr. (Woody), a music educator with 39 years of experience, received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976 and a Master's degree in Education in 1980 from Auburn (AL) University and an Education Specialist degree from Troy State (AL) University in 2000. Leonard is the former Director of Bands for Tift County Public Schools where he directed "The Blue Devil Brigade" Marching Band, the 11th & 12th Grade Symphonic Band and 10th Grade Concert Band, the Jazz Ensemble, and The Blues Devils, a 12-member blues-rock ensemble. Before coming to Tifton in 1986, Leonard served as assistant director at Lowndes High School in Valdosta, Georgia, Director of Bands at Dalton High School in Dalton, Georgia, and graduate assistant for the Auburn University Band. During his 19-year tenure at Tift County High School, the "Brigade" won numerous regional marching contests and performed pre-game and half-time shows for Auburn University, Tulane University, Troy State University, the New Orleans Saints and the Atlanta Falcons. Under his leadership, the Brigade was the sole representative for the state of Georgia in 1988, 1991, and 1995 at the Festival of States National Band Championships in St Petersburg, FL. Awards received at this five day event include Best Drum Majors and Percussion (1991) and Best Jazz Ensemble and the prestigious Heart of St Petersburg Award (1995). The Blue Devil Brigade marched in the nationally televised Brach's Holiday Parade in Chicago, Illinois (1996), the Bank United Thanksgiving Day Parade in Houston, Texas (1998) and the Orange Bowl Parade (2000) in Miami, Florida. In 2004 the Brigade represented the state of Georgia at the ABC 6/Boscov's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leonard's concert bands consistently received superior and excellent ratings at regional performance evaluations and the TCHS Symphonic Band performed at the Southeastern United States Band Clinic (Troy, AL) in 1997. Under his direction, both the Lowndes and Tift County Jazz Ensembles never received less than a superior rating and both groups won several jazz competitions at Valdosta State University and Abraham Baldwin College. Since "retirement", he has conducted the Concert Band, the Pep Band, and coordinated instrumental music recruiting activities at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (Tifton, Georgia) and directed the Cook Middle School Band in Adel, Georgia. Leonard is currently an Educational Representative for Portman's Music in charge of school band sales and service for the Southwest Georgia area. He continues to adjudicate various band competitions throughout the state and has conducted numerous concert and jazz ensemble honor bands. Recently, Leonard was named by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to serve on the Governor's Arts Learning Task Force, a 16-member organization charged with presenting recommendations to improve arts educational achievements throughout the state. Leonard's professional affiliations include the Music Educators National Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association, and Professional Association of Georgia Educators. He is the immediate past President of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association and is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. In 1984, he was selected as an "Outstanding Young Man" by the National Jaycee Association and in 1996 received an "Excellence in Teaching Award" by the Tifton Foundation for Educational Excellence.