

**National Indian Education Association
NIEA 2023 Educator of the Year Award
Stephen Bell**

Stephen Bell is a proud member of the Lumbee Tribe and the American Indian Education Coordinator in Guilford County Schools. Following in the footsteps of his grandparents (Mr. Buddy and Mrs. Sarah Bell), parents (Ronny and Natalie Bell), aunts and cousins, Stephen began his work in education as a middle school teacher and later a school social worker. In his current role as the American Indian Education Coordinator, he has coordinated over 60 culture classes, facilitated over 50 trainings, led numerous counseling student sessions and college tours, and ran the school districts very first summer culture camp for Native Youth. This summer Stephen was also elected to the Board of Directors for Guilford Native American Association (local urban Indian non-profit) and will be sworn in 9/22 to NC SACIE (State Advisory Council on Indian Ed). In this work, he hopes to better work to create pathways of opportunities and spaces of healing and support for Native youth and young people.