



Ashley Lamb-Sinclair named 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year



MLK commission offers student contest

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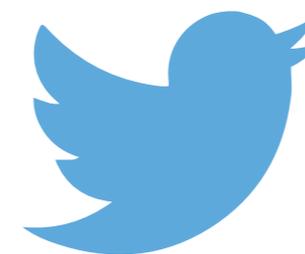
Rogers Scholars' applications now open



All photos by KDE unless otherwise noted

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Twitter chat

Parents: Want to chat with educators? A parent/teacher Twitter chat takes place at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. To participate or just follow the conversation, use the hashtag #PTchat.

Ashley Lamb-Sinclair named 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

An English and creative writing teacher in the Oldham County school district, Ashley Lamb-Sinclair, has been named the 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education made the announcement Oct. 20 at a ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Gov. Steve Beshear; Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Thomas O. Zawacki; Commissioner of Education Stephen L. Pruitt; and Sam Mitchell, senior vice president of Ashland and president of Valvoline, were on hand to make the presentation.

Joshua DeWar, a 2nd-grade teacher at Engelhard Elementary in Jefferson County, was named the 2016 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Karen Mallonee, a world language/Spanish teacher at College View Middle School in Daviess County, was named the 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

The three joined 21 other teachers from across the state honored with 2016 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards.

Beshear praised all of the winners for their dedication, innovation, enthusiasm and ability.

“Jane and I would personally like to thank all the teachers recognized this year at the Teacher of the Year ceremony, and we congratulate this year’s winner for setting the bar on excellence in education,” Beshear said. “Our teachers are a major part of Kentucky’s current momentum. They continue to partner with us as we improve our education programs that are preparing our young people for the increasingly high-tech jobs of the 21st century, and making Kentucky more competitive as companies seek out highly skilled, capable employees. Our future looks bright as we continue to raise our education standards and rankings, and we have our teachers to thank

for our ongoing success.”

“Our most important assets in education are the teachers in the classrooms. These teachers honored here today represent the best of the best in Kentucky,” said Pruitt. “Even with tight resources and a continual push to make sure all students are ready for college and career, Kentucky’s teachers are proving high student achievement is possible.”

DeWar and Mallonee received \$3,000 each and a customized, art-glass vase from Ashland Inc., while Lamb-Sinclair received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal-glass bowl. In addition, the Kentucky Department of Education will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative for Lamb-Sinclair, who will represent the state in the 2016 National Teacher of the Year competition. The remaining 21 winners each received \$500 cash awards. All 24 teachers received framed certificates and were further recognized at a luncheon following the ceremony.

“This marks the 15th year that Ashland and the Kentucky Department of Education have joined together to recognize some of the Commonwealth’s top educators. When you think about the impact teachers have upon their students, they truly deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their efforts,” said Mitchell.

Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education co-sponsor the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards. Applications for the program were distributed across the state, and the first tier of the selection process was completed in August, with 24 teachers selected as 2016 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners.

Nine top scorers from each of the elementary, middle and high school levels



Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education announced the 2016 Teachers of the Year winners at a ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Joshua DeWar of Jefferson County, from left, is the 2016 Elementary School Teacher of the Year; Ashley Lamb-Sinclair of the Oldham County school district is the 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year; and Karen Mallonee, of Daviess County, is the 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Photo by Jennifer Ginn, Oct 20, 2015

were selected, and teams of educators visited their classrooms to view them at work and to conduct personal interviews. From those nine, three were selected as 2016 Kentucky Teachers of the Year. The selection of the overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year was based on the compilation of scores from all phases of the judging.

Ashland has recognized outstanding Kentucky teachers with its Teacher Achievement Awards since 1988. Approximately \$727,000 has been awarded to more than 500 teachers in grades K to 12.

Martin Luther King Jr. commission offers student contests

Entries are being accepted for the Martin Luther King Jr. essay, artwork and poetry contests presented by the Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission. Nominations also are being accepted for the Martin Luther King Jr. Citizenship Award.

The King Award art contest is open to students in grades K-12; the essay and poetry contests are open to grades 4-12.

The citizenship award is given to an individual who embodies the spirit and energy of the late civil rights leader. The criteria for nominees include; demonstration of leadership and achievement toward the principles of racial equality, interracial harmony, economic justice, participation in Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observances and dedication to King's dream.

The deadline for the student contests is Nov. 13; the deadline for citizenship award nominations is Dec. 3. Winners will be honored Jan. 14 in Frankfort during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration. Click these links for information and entry forms for the [essay](#), [art](#) and [poetry](#) contests and [here](#) for the citizenship award nomination form.



Winners of the 2015 MLK Essay Contest, Mark Dunn, 5th grader at Mercer County Intermediate School and Angelino Vasquez and Klaw Meh, both 5th graders at Minor's Lane Elementary, Jefferson County received their awards with former Education Commissioner Terry Holliday and Gov. Steve Beshear. (Photo provided by Kentucky MLK Commission)

Doodle 4 Google



doodle with any materials to show what makes them unique and the winner's artwork will be featured on the Google homepage for a day.

Students in grades K-12 are invited to take part in the 2015 [Doodle 4 Google](#) contest. Like all Google Doodles, each doodle must incorporate the letters G-o-o-g-l-e. Young artists can

One national winner also will receive a \$30,000 college scholarship. The contest is open for entries until Dec. 7. The entry form and more information are available [here](#).

In addition, teachers who inspire their students to explore their creativity through Doodle 4 Google could win prizes by sharing their story. One winner will receive \$1,000 to spend on classroom supplies and a two-night trip to Google HQ in Mountain View, Calif., to meet the Doodle Team. Four runners-up will each win \$1,000 for classroom supplies. Learn more [here](#).

Secretary of State's Essay and Slogan Contest open

The Office of the Secretary of State's 2015-16 Essay and Slogan Contest is now open to students. The contest helps students tangibly interact with the concepts associated with government and democracy while they garner recognition and compete for prizes.

The slogan contest is open to students in grades 6-8; the essay contest is for students in grades 9-12. Cash prizes will be awarded to students in both divisions, including \$1,000 awards for the first-place slogan and for the winning essay at each high school grade level. For the first time, a desktop computer will be awarded to the school with the highest participation rate.

The entry deadline is Jan. 15. Click [here](#) for more information and entry forms.



Winners of the 2014 Secretary of State's 2014-15 Essay and Slogan contest with Secretary of State Allison Lundergan Grimes at Rupp Arena. (Photo provided by Secretary of State's Office)

Rogers Scholars' applications now open

Rogers Scholars, the Center for Rural Development's flagship youth program, provides leadership and college scholarship opportunities to help upcoming high school juniors in southern and eastern Kentucky develop the skills they need to seize their potential as the region's next generation of business and entrepreneurial leaders.

The weeklong program focuses on developing skills in leadership, technology, entrepreneurship and community service.

Rogers Scholars participate in a series of team-building exercises, receive hands-on instructional training from professional experts in engineering, healthcare and video production, and interact with nationally recognized business leaders and entrepreneurs.

High school students apply during their sophomore year and, if selected, will attend one of two Rogers Scholars summer sessions just before they enter the 11th grade. All lodging, meals and program expenses, with the exception of transportation, are free.

Since the program's inception in 1998, 1,056 high school students have graduated from Rogers Scholars, and [potential scholarships](#) valued at more than \$7.2 million have been offered to graduates by 17 participating colleges and universities.

Click [here](#) for more information about selection the criteria and application.



Photos provided by Rogers Scholars

Ohio River Sweep poster contest open



This poster by Jacob Epperson, a student at Ackerman Elementary School (Boone County), was last year's 5th grade winner.

Entries are being accepted for a poster contest to promote the Ohio River Sweep.

River Sweep is a one-day cleanup project for the Ohio River that covers more than 3,000 miles of shoreline in six states: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Thousands of volunteers participate in the event, collecting more than 7,500 tons of trash and debris.

The poster contest is open to schools bordering the Ohio River and its tributaries to create an awareness of the problem caused by litter in rivers and streams. Students in primary and secondary schools (public, private and home school) are invited to design posters for River Sweep each year. Students must submit their artwork by Dec. 18 and designs are judged in January.

Posters should reflect the positive outcome of pollution awareness and focus on encouraging volunteer participation in the cleanup. Prizes will be awarded, including two \$500 cash awards.

River sweep is sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission in partnership with Ohio River businesses and industries. Other participating agencies include: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, Kentucky River Authority, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and West Virginia Make it Shine Program.

More information is available [here](#).

Governor's School for Entrepreneurs applications open

Students interested in the 2016 Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) program are encouraged to send in their applications. GSE is a three-week residential summer program for 9th-, 10th- and 11th-graders. It offers a creative, free-thinking environment for teens to share and develop their ideas for innovative products and services. Summer 2016 session is from June 12-July 2 at Georgetown College.

No minimum GPA or ACT scores are required to apply. Students may apply as individuals or as a team.

The application is available on the GSE at www.kentuckygse.com. Click [here](#) for application instruction videos.

The deadline for applications is Dec. 21.



Students can enter Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest



Entries are being accepted for the National Family Partnership's National Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest, which is held to prevent drug use and educate youth

in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31.

Students and families can decorate their home's front door, mailbox or fence or schools can decorate their campus with a double-looped red ribbon and the theme, "Respect Yourself. Be Drug Free." School decorations should be in a visible location on campus.

Students should take a photo with their decoration and upload it or have it uploaded to the [contest website](#) by Nov. 3 — you must be at least 18 years old to upload a photo — then students can ask family and friends to [vote for their entry](#) Nov. 4-18. The winners will be

announced Dec. 4.

Ten families in the home decoration category with the most votes in each region will win an iPad for the family and \$1,000 to be used toward drug prevention at a K-12 school of their choosing.

Ten schools in the school decoration category with the most votes in each region will win an iPad for the school employee or PTA member who entered on behalf of the school and \$1,000 to be used toward drug prevention at the school.