



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **KRISTAL DOOLIN NAMED 2013 KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kristal Doolin, a language arts teacher at Corbin Middle School in the Corbin Independent school district, is the 2013 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made today at a ceremony held at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort by [Ashland Inc.](#) and the Kentucky Department of Education. Governor Steve Beshear; Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday; and Ashland Chairman and CEO Jim O'Brien were on hand to make the presentation.

Heidi Givens, a teacher of deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Tamarack Elementary in Daviess County, was named 2013 Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Allison Hunt, social studies teacher at duPont Manual High School in Jefferson County, was named 2013 High School Teacher of the Year.

The three joined 21 other teachers from across the state honored with 2013 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards. Givens and Hunt received \$3,000 each and a customized, art-glass vase from Ashland Inc., while Doolin received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal-glass bowl. In addition, the Department of Education will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative for Doolin, who also will represent the state in the 2013 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.

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## TEACHER OF THE YEAR BIOGRAPHIES

**Heidi Givens** is a 17-year teaching veteran who has taught deaf and hard-of-hearing students for eight years. She currently teaches these students as an itinerant teacher in both the county and independent school systems in her area. Givens earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Boston University and has achieved national board certification. She is founder and Conference Committee chair of the Kentucky Educators for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. Givens is a Kentucky Teacher Internship Program resource teacher and has presented many deaf and hard-of-hearing presentations over the past decade. She served on a standard-setting study panel for the deaf and hard-of-hearing PRAXIS exam and participated in a group that developed materials for teaching American Sign Language to deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Givens is a member of the Kentucky Educators for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and Registry Interpreters of the Deaf.

**Kristal Doolin** has taught for 15 years, teaching language arts at Corbin Middle School for the past seven years. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Union College and has achieved National Board certification. Doolin chairs her school's Writing Program Review Committee and participates in the Kentucky Leadership Network for Language Arts. She has served as a professional-development facilitator and as a presenter at the Measures of Academic Program Summer Institute and New Standard Back to Writing Portfolio Training Initiatives. Doolin has served as a Kentucky Writing master trainer and is an inductee of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators. She is a Kentucky Education Association grant recipient, and her professional affiliations include the Kentucky Council of Teachers of English/Language Arts, the local, state and national education associations and the National Council of Teachers of English.

**Allison Hunt** is a ten-year teaching veteran who has taught social studies at duPont Manual High for five years. She earned a bachelor's degree at Georgetown College and a master's degree at the University of Louisville. Hunt mentors student teachers, implemented an AP Human Geography course, sponsors the school's History Club and is a member of the School-Based Decision Making Council. She has received WHAS-TV Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership, National Society of High School Scholars, Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction and Kentucky Outstanding Civic Education Leadership awards. Hunt's professional affiliations include the Foundation for Teaching Economics Professional Teaching Association, Global Association of Teachers of Economics, Kentucky Geography Alliance, National Council for Geographic Education, College Board, AP Human Geography, Kentucky Association for Teachers of History and the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

This is the 12th year Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education have co-sponsored 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 2013 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners. To read the bios of the 24 TAA winners, visit the [education section](#) of Ashland Inc.'s website.

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Nine top scorers – three each from the elementary, middle and high school levels – 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 2013 Kentucky Teachers of the Year. The selection of the overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year was based on a compilation of scores from all phases of judging.

Ashland has recognized outstanding Kentucky teachers with its Teacher Achievement Awards since 1988. Approximately \$658,000 has been awarded to more than 450 teachers of grades K to 12.

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