



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE No. 13-091

September 25, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Rodriguez

Office: (502) 564-2000, ext. 4610 **Cell:** (502) 330-5063 **E-mail:** nancy.rodriquez@education.ky.gov

24 ASHLAND INC. TEACHER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS NAMED

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky Department of Education and Ashland Inc. have selected 24 outstanding Kentucky educators as recipients of the 2014 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards (TAA). These teachers qualify to compete for the 2014 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced next month.

The 24 winning teachers, listed by school district, are:

Bracken County – Robin Rath-Fultz, Taylor Elementary
Carter County – Beverly McDavid, West Carter Middle
Elizabethtown Independent – Derisa Hindle, Talton K. Stone Middle
Fayette County – Cynthia L. Brown, Lexington Traditional Magnet
Fayette County – Scot A. Gill, Tates Creek High
Fayette County – Melanie Trowel, Carter G. Woodson Academy
Fayette County – Catherine Vannatter, Bryan Station High
Floyd County – Cortney H. Flannery, Betsy Layne High
Floyd County – Amanda Lee, May Valley Elementary
Hardin County – Kathy S. Thompson, Central Hardin High
Jefferson County – Rita Cron, Atherton High
Jefferson County – Angela Pleasant, James E. Farmer Elementary
Jessamine County – Shawn Carlstedt, Rosenwald Dunbar Elementary
Lincoln County – Joanna H. Stevens, Lincoln County High
Madison County – LenaKay E. Wilson, Mayfield Elementary
Menifee County – Lana Swartz, Menifee County High
Muhlenberg County – Kelly D. Melton, Muhlenberg North Middle
Murray Independent – Holly Bloodworth, Murray Elementary
Pendleton County – Michelle W. Lustenberg, Phillip A. Sharp Middle
Oldham County – Craig Grimm, North Oldham High
Oldham County – Gina Weber, Crestwood Elementary
Scott County – Willow Hambrick, Royal Spring Middle
Simpson County – Sharon S. Smith, Franklin Elementary
Taylor County – Jessica McCubbin, Taylor County Middle

(more)

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed

Page 2 – Teacher Achievement Awards

All 24 teachers will be honored at a ceremony in Frankfort on October 16 in the State Capitol Building. Governor Steve Beshear, Education and Workforce Secretary Thomas Zawacki, Education Commissioner Terry Holliday and Ashland's Chairman and CEO Jim O'Brien will be present to honor the teachers and to recognize the Kentucky Elementary, Middle and High School Teachers of the Year. From this group of three finalists, the Kentucky Teacher of the Year will be named and will represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Ashland will present the 24 TAA recipients with cash awards and certificates at the awards ceremony. In addition to cash awards, the three Kentucky Teachers of the Year also will receive custom-designed glassware commemorating their accomplishments, and all 24 educators will be honored at a special luncheon after the ceremony.

The Kentucky Teacher Awards program combines the best elements of the Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards and the Kentucky Teacher of the Year programs. This marks the 13th year the Department of Education and Ashland have partnered to honor Kentucky educators.

Judging was conducted in August by a blue-ribbon panel of veteran educators, many of whom have more than 25 years of teaching experience. Applications included information on the nominees' teaching philosophies, teaching experiences and involvement in their respective communities, as well as letters of recommendation from peers, students, parents, administrators and others.

Ashland has recognized outstanding Kentucky teachers with its Teacher Achievement Awards since 1988. Approximately \$685,000 has been awarded to 450 teachers of grades K to 12.

###

About Ashland, Inc.

In more than 100 countries, the people of Ashland Inc. (NYSE: ASH) provide the specialty chemicals, technologies and insights to help customers create new and improved products for today and sustainable solutions for tomorrow. Our chemistry is at work every day in a wide variety of markets and applications, including architectural coatings, automotive, construction, energy, food and beverage, personal care, pharmaceutical, tissue and towel, and water treatment. Visit ashland.com to see the innovations we offer through our four commercial units – Ashland Specialty Ingredients, Ashland Water Technologies, Ashland Performance Materials and Ashland Consumer Markets.

Visit our website at <http://www.education.ky.gov>

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed and Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed