



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### NEWS ADVISORY

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## **ALL INFORMATION UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY, JAN. 15 AFTER THE AWARD IS ANNOUNCED**

### **MILKEN AWARD TO BE PRESENTED**

(Frankfort, Ky.) – A Kentucky educator will get the surprise of a lifetime this week, when he or she is notified this week of his or her selection as a [Milken Educator Award](#) recipient.

On Thursday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. ET, an outstanding Jefferson County Public Schools educator will receive an unrestricted \$25,000 Milken Educator Award at a surprise schoolwide assembly. The prestigious award – presented by Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday and Dr. Jane Foley, senior vice president, Milken Family Awards – will recognize the exceptional work of this educator as a model for the state and the nation.

**CONFIDENTIALITY IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THIS VISIT. THE RECIPIENT WILL NOT KNOW HE OR SHE IS BEING HONORED UNTIL THE NAME IS REVEALED AT THE ASSEMBLY. WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT MAKE PUBLIC INQUIRIES ABOUT THE RECIPIENT UNTIL AFTER THE RECIPIENT IS ANNOUNCED ON THURSDAY. THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE RELEASED ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14.**

The Milken Educator Awards, conceived by the Milken Family Foundation to attract, retain and motivate outstanding talent to the teaching profession, is the nation's preeminent teacher recognition program, dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by *Teacher* magazine. Since 1987, the Milken Family Foundation has devoted more than \$137 million in funding to the Milken Educator Awards, including more than \$65 million in individual awards to more than 2,600 recipients plus professional development opportunities and networking with leading education stakeholders.

Since 1993, when the state joined the program, 54 Kentucky educators have received the award.

(more)

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**MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION  
2014 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARDS  
KENTUCKY FACT SHEET**

**The Awards** The Milken Educator Awards program provides recognition and unrestricted financial awards of \$25,000 to exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers, principals, and specialists who are furthering excellence in our nation’s schools. This year, up to 40 of America’s finest educators will be honored.

**National Notifications** Each year exceptional educators – considered without their knowledge by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by each state’s department of education – are surprised with the news of their \$25,000 Awards, which they can use in any way they choose. These announcements are made during emotional assemblies held at each recipient’s school, and are attended by students and peers, as well as federal, state and local officials, and the media.

**Key Statistics**

**National**

- Up to 40 recipients across the country
- More than 2,600 recipients since inception (including new recipients)
- Over \$65 million in Awards since inception

**Kentucky**

- \$25,000 to be awarded in Kentucky
- 1 recipient in 2014
- 54 recipients since program began in Kentucky
- \$1,350,000 awarded in Kentucky since program began

**History**

The Milken Educator Awards program was launched by the Milken Family Foundation in 1987.

Kentucky joined the Milken Educator Awards program in 1993.

**Milken Family Foundation**

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education, medical research and public health.

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