



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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GRADUATION CEREMONIES HELD AT KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) awarded diplomas to seven high school seniors in a ceremony at the school Wednesday evening.

The graduates, along with their hometown, include:

- Kenneth Breeden, Shepherdsville
- Austin Stephens, Corbin
- Matthew Caudill, Viper
- Savannah Hively, Vine Grove
- Kianna Waller, Frankfort
- Trevor Grivil, Louisville
- Selena Tirey, Nortonville

Grivil was one of 50 high school seniors in Louisville to receive the 2016 Mayor's Outstanding High School Seniors Award. After graduation, Grivil will attend Morehead State University where he plans to pursue a degree in education.

Of the seven graduates, four will be attending a two- or four-year college and three will be entering the workforce.

"I am so proud of these graduates and their accomplishments at the Kentucky School for the Blind," said Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt, who attended the ceremony. "Whether they are continuing their education or starting a job after graduation, I am confident that the education they received at KSB will serve them well for the rest of their lives."

Kathy Nimmer, Indiana's 2015 Teacher of the Year and one of four finalists for National Teacher of the Year, delivered an inspiring speech to the graduates. Nimmer, who began losing her sight in 3rd grade and was blind by the time she was a teenager, attended the Indiana School for the Blind, more than 150 miles from her home.

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She received a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity Christian College and a master's degree from Purdue University. In addition to teaching at Harrison High School in West Lafayette, Indiana, Nimmer also has published two books, one of poetry and one about the bond between people with disabilities and their service dogs.

In addition to Pruitt and Kentucky Board of Education Chair Roger L. Marcum, board member Mary Gwen Wheeler, former board member Sarah Murphy Ford and several Department of Education staff members attended the ceremony.

A graduation ceremony for KSB's 8th grade students was held earlier Wednesday and an awards ceremony for elementary school students was held on Tuesday.

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