

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## HOLBROOK RECEIVES KEVIN M. NOLAND AWARD

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Linda Holbrook, state Reading First coordinator at the Kentucky Department of Education, is the recipient of the first Kevin M. Noland Award.

The award was presented to Holbrook today by the Kentucky Board of Education at its regular meeting in Frankfort.

“Linda Holbrook provides a consistent state-level link to schools, districts and the U.S. Department of Education,” said Kentucky Board of Education Chair Joe Brothers. “She fully understands the importance of a local contact when issues and concerns arise at the school and district levels.”

Holbrook provides support and assistance related to the federal Reading First program, which allocates \$13.7 million annually to Kentucky for early reading instruction and professional development for teachers to ensure that children learn to read well by the end of 3rd grade.

Holbrook’s leadership has been crucial in framing the Kentucky Reading First experience. During her time as the Reading First coordinator, schools that were identified among the lowest performing in the state have made great strides in increasing the number of students reading at the proficient level and reducing the number of at-risk students in reading.

Holbrook has served in her current capacity since 2002. From 1997 to 2002, she was a reading consultant in one of the now-defunct Regional Service Centers.

Holbrook and her husband, Jim, are residents of Lexington.

(more)

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Page 2 -- Noland Award

The Kentucky Board of Education established the Kevin M. Noland Award to honor former Interim Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Associate Commissioner and General Counsel Kevin M. Noland, who served the Department of Education for approximately 18 years. The award recognizes a KDE employee for significant service to Kentucky's public schools and for providing inspiration for education.

A selection committee made up of a cross-section of KDE employees was appointed by Commissioner Terry Holliday. The committee met, reviewed and rated the nominations based on the following criteria:

- an individual who focuses on the mission for student proficiency
- an individual who is an excellent ambassador for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Education and Kentucky's schools
- an individual who is knowledgeable and productive
- an individual who has made an impact in one of the following areas: school districts, community partners, parents and/or co-workers through leadership, customer service, teamwork and community service

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