



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

Number 18-117

August 8, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT: Rebecca Blessing

Office: (502) 564-2000, ext. 4604 | **E-mail:** rebecca.blessing@education.ky.gov

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN TECHNOLOGY NATIONAL CONFERENCE; WIN AWARDS

(Frankfort, KY) – More than 50 middle and high school students from seven schools represented Kentucky during the 2018 Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference held in Atlanta, and several brought home awards.

TSA is a national career and technical student organization that supports students engaged in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Students learn through competitive events, leadership opportunities, community service and other activities.

During the conference, students had opportunities to attend leadership and employability workshops, as well as network with colleges and fellow students. More than 8,000 students participated in more than 65 STEM-related competitions – such as 3D animation, coding, engineering design, forensic technology and environmental engineering – during the four-day national conference.

Kentucky Top 10 Finalist Awards

TSA Competitive Event	Student Name, Place	TSA Chapter
CAD Foundations – Middle	Troy Nolan, 10th place	Southern Middle School (Fayette County)
Electrical Applications – Middle	Dhruv Upreti & Pragya Upreti, 5th place	Southern Middle School (Fayette County)
Essays on Technology – Middle	Shaylin Lewis, 8th place	Southern Middle School (Fayette County)
Structural Engineering – Middle	Hope Meyers & Philip Lamartiniere, 10th place	Southern Middle School (Fayette County)

“Seeing our delegation receive numerous awards during the national conference shows the world that we are preparing students for future STEM careers right here in Kentucky,” said Kentucky TSA State Adviser Mark Harrell. “And while winning awards is great, the networking and leadership opportunities are equally as important. Students learn what it takes to succeed in the career world and are exposed to employability skills needed in the workforce.”

In addition to the student awards, Rowan County High School teacher Todd Campbell was named Kentucky High School Chapter Adviser of the Year; and Staci Davis, Southern Middle School (Fayette County), was named Kentucky Middle School Chapter Adviser of the Year. Three schools also were honored with a Chapter Excellence Award: Grant County High School, Raceland High School (Raceland-Worthington Ind.), and Southern Middle School (Fayette County).

Kentucky also received the award for the state with the highest middle school membership growth during the 2017-2018 school year with more than 900 new middle school members.

(more)

State Advisor Mark Harrell was honored with the [2018 TSA Distinguished Service Award](#). This award is presented to an individual within the TSA network who has provided valued service and contributed to the continued growth and success of TSA. Under Harrell's leadership, membership in Kentucky TSA has grown from 1,000 to 3,000 students in two years.

"I commend Mark for his leadership and innovation to move TSA forward," Associate Commissioner for the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) David Horseman said. "TSA is a great example of a co-curricular student organization, which provides participants experiences that better prepare them to transition to postsecondary and a career."

TSA's membership includes more than 250,000 middle and high school students in approximately 2,000 schools across 48 states, and is open to students enrolled in or who have completed technology education courses.

"The diversity of activities offers the potential for growth of every member," Harrell said. "From engineers to business managers, alumni credit TSA with a positive influence on their lives."

Educators, parents and business leaders who believe in the need for a technologically literate society support TSA. For more information about Kentucky TSA, visit [Kentucky TSA's website](#).

###

[Visit our website at http://www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov)

[Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kydeptofed](http://www.twitter.com/kydeptofed) and [Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kydeptofed](http://www.facebook.com/kydeptofed)