



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

AND THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



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# NEWS RELEASE

November 19, 2018

# Fayette County Administrator Named 2019 KY Superintendent of the Year

Frankfort KY – Emmanuel Caulk, superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools, was named KASA’s 2019 Superintendent of the Year (SOY). Caulk received the award at a surprise ceremony held during tonight’s district board meeting in Lexington, KY. It was attended by district faculty, staff, board members and community leaders. In addition to this recognition, Caulk received a bronze eagle sculpture, a \$2,500 scholarship for a Fayette County senior, a SOY ring, and travel reimbursement to the AASA National Conference on Education. He now moves on to compete with other state winners to become a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year Award, given by AASA in February 2019.



Having grown up in the inner city of Wilmington Delaware - a place so violent that *Newsweek Magazine* declared it “Murder Town USA” - Caulk experienced poverty, homelessness, and hunger at an early age. Despite living in a community where the public education system was broken, unemployment was high, fathers were missing, and crime was rampant, Caulk took the road less travelled and became the first person in his family to graduate from college. He began his career teaching fifth through twelfth grade special education at county detention center. After five years, he left the classroom and became a school administrator. During this time Caulk also earned a law degree and practiced law until 2003.

After several years of successful school- and district-level leadership, Caulk was named superintendent of Fayette County Public Schools in June 2015. Once considered one of the premier school systems in the state, Kentucky’s second largest school district was in need of transformative leadership to turn around its low performing schools. This would be accomplished by turning it into a unified school system focused on equity and opportunity for every student.

“Since Manny arrived in Fayette County, he has been relentless in his efforts to move the district forward and provide every child with opportunities to succeed,” said KASA Executive Director Wayne Young. “His selection for this award serves as confirmation that his hard work, and its tangible results, are being noticed and valued.”

In less than three years, Caulk has led a dramatic turnaround in the Fayette County School District by intentionally engaging students, staff, families and community members in a top to bottom examination of the district and strategically building the structures and systems necessary for sustained success.

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KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky’s school administrators.

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