FRANKFORT, Ky.—) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators presents the Fred Award each year to a staff member in one of the state’s public school districts whose daily efforts are deemed extraordinary and critical to student success. Non-administrative school or district staff, students and volunteers are eligible to receive the award.

The KASA Annual Leadership Institute & Expo in Louisville is the event where one of three finalists will be recognized. The finalists are selected for the Fred Award by a statewide judging panel of leaders from school districts across Kentucky.

“The presentation of the Fred Award is one the best things our organization does each year,” KASA Deputy Director Rhonda Caldwell said. “There are too many ‘Freds’ in schools and districts across the state to count. The attitude of giving sacrificially to students is just something that Kentucky’s school and district personnel have engrained in them. This award is representative of the dedication Kentuckians have for their children.”

The Fred Factor is a book that details the care, loyalty and devotion Shea had for those on his mail route. Sanborn details how those characteristics can be used daily in education, business, industry, commerce and life.

The KASA Annual Leadership Institute & Expo is set for July 20-22 at Louisville’s Galt House Hotel. This year’s presentation marks the ninth anniversary of the KASA Fred Award.

Meet the 2016 Finalists:

Kenneth Kelley, Bus Driver, Daviess County Public Schools

Mr. Kelley transports preschool students to and from school each day. A member of the DCPS Transportation Department staff said, “He takes the time to acknowledge each child as an individual and elaborates on their unique abilities. I believe Kenny has learned so much through his personal losses, and he wants us all to take the day we have been given and make the best of it – not only for ourselves, but for others. It is evident Kenny has made his goal in life to put others first in his job and his personal life as well.”

He attends his students’ sporting events and greets them with a large smile, a high-five and an “I’m proud of you!” He also leads his students into school every morning, helps them take off backpacks, and prepares them for breakfast. He opens milk cartons and encourages them to have a wonderful day of learning. He shares his cheer with other students in the cafeteria and is the grandfather that many children just don’t have.

continued
Heather Moss, Instructional Assistant & Bus Driver, Green County Schools

Ms. Moss started her employment with Green County Schools as a job coach in 2005. Now she is a special needs bus driver and instructional aid in a low-incidence classroom at Green County High School.

Parents often request that Ms. Moss be their child’s bus driver because of her tireless work for the children and families in Green County. She also serves as a prom sponsor at GCHS, assists with student council, volunteers with the boys and girls golf teams, helps with the local 4-H Club and is active in her church. She took a small child into her home, for more than a year, because the child did not have a family able to provide for her needs and asked for nothing in return. When a student who rode her bus passed away, his mother asked Ms. Moss to serve as an honorary pallbearer.

The author of her nomination letter writes, “For many of her classroom students she is their bus driver and teacher in their classroom. She often attends ARC meetings for students in her classroom and who ride her bus. Regardless of the disability, Heather is eager and willing to provide support for her students. She is a true inspiration."

Larry Pople, Custodian, Bowling Green Independent School District

“Mr. Larry” is part of everything at Potter Gray Elementary School. He greets students by name and helps students with breakfast each morning. After a bathroom overflowed and Mr. Larry had spent a good portion of the day working to fix it, he told his principal that he would work over the weekend on his normal tasks to make things perfect when school resumed Monday morning.

Last fall, he volunteered to sit in the dunking booth at the school’s fall festival. He forgot to bring a change of clothes, but that didn’t stop him. Mr. Larry climbed in anyway – blue jeans and all. He didn’t even have a towel. He wasn’t going to pass on the opportunity to have fun with his students.

“If you ask him to do something, he does it right then,” a member of the Potter Gray office staff said. “Even if you tell him the issue isn’t important or say when you get a chance, he takes care of the issue right away and responds that same way to every person in the building.”

School district contacts regarding the individual finalists include:

- Lora Wimsatt at Daviess County Public Schools – lora.wimsatt@daviess.kyschools.us and (270) 852-7000
- Jim Frank at Green County Schools – jim.frank@green.kyschools.us and (270) 932-6601
- Leslie McCoy at Bowling Green Independent Schools – leslie.mccoy@bgreen.kyschools.us and (270) 746-2200

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,000 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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