



NEWS RELEASE

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2017 STEVE KIMBERLING YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN SCHOOL SAFETY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

(FRANKFORT-Ky-) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) congratulates the winners of the 2017 Steve Kimberling Youth Leadership in School Safety Award. Recipients and programs are listed.

1. Kit Carson Elementary School in Madison County –Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)
2. Drakes Creek Middle School in Warren County—Eyes in the Sky
3. Madisonville North Hopkins High School—Say Something

School representatives and participating students of the winning safety programs were presented with a Certificate of Excellence and \$1,000 check during KASA’s Annual Leadership Institute July 27 at the Galt House in Louisville.

Named in memory of school safety advocate Steve Kimberling and co-sponsored by Mrs. Steve Kimberling along with the Kentucky Center for School Safety and KASA, this award recognizes students and adults within a school that have promoted leadership and built partnerships to save lives, prevent injuries, and enhance a safe and positive school culture.

“Steve believed everyone had a moral obligation to contribute to school safety and never should any of us think that our goal of achieving perfectly safe schools had been reached,” said Jon Akers, executive director, Kentucky Center for School Safety.

Applicants include students in grades kindergarten through twelve from schools across the commonwealth. Grant recipients are selected from three grade-level categories (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) by a statewide blue ribbon judging panel.

K-5 Category

Kit Carson Elementary School was chosen as the elementary category for their program, Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). This safety initiative increases fathers’ involvement at school while “providing extra eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.” Although the title specifies dads, the program is open to all male father-figures in a student’s life including grandfathers and uncles. During the school day, ‘Dads’ are available to “tutor, read stories, work math problems and assist in a serious game of kickball” in addition to their security duties.

6-8 Category

The Education Technology class at Drakes Creek Middle School in Warren County was awarded the middle school category for their program, Eye in the Sky, which has the potential to save students, faculty and staff during a crisis. How does it work? At the time of a crisis, students launch a drone from a remote and safe location. The drone, equipped with a live camera, hovers around and over the school to record and broadcast live actions on the ground below to assist first responders. Currently, students are programming the drone to “circumnavigate the entire building, stopping at designated windows, allowing first responders to observe inside the classrooms from outside the building.”

9-12 Category

Madisonville North Hopkins High School student Katie Waide’s passion for suicide prevention began as a school-wide campaign and grew into a safety initiative that is now being implemented in all the high schools and middle schools in the Hopkinsville district. Her program, See Something, Say Something, won the high school category award and works to promote “outspokenness among students to combat the leading factors of teen suicide, such as crime, bullying and isolation.” Led by a

student committee, outcomes from this safety program have produced an Instagram reporting system, suicide prevention videos and a partnership with the Hopkinsville Teen Suicide Prevention Team to increase suicide awareness beyond the school day.

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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