

NEWS RELEASE JULY 31, 2018

Butler County's Rita Renfrow 2018 Fred Award Recipient

(Frankfort, Ky) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) announced Rita Renfrow, preschool classroom assistant for Butler County Schools, as the winner of the statewide Fred Award.

One of three finalists, Renfrow was presented the award July 27, during KASA's 50th Annual Leadership Institute, the largest gathering of school administrators statewide. Finalists are selected by a statewide judging panel representing leaders from school districts across the commonwealth.

Now in its 11th year, the Fred Award continues to be a coveted award among school leaders as a way to honor critical non-administrative staff members who often aren't recognized. Inspired by Fred Shea, the subject of Mark Sanborn's national bestseller, *The Fred Factor*, the award seeks to honor an individual who exudes a Fred-like spirit of service, innovation, and commitment to others, positively influencing and impacting the lives of those in the school community.



Ms. Rita, as she is called by the students at North Butler Elementary, is known for her kind smile, infectious enthusiasm, and true love for kids. Described by her nominator as “one of a kind,” Ms. Rita approaches each day with pure joy and is always ready to lend a hand, offer love, and show support to students.

“She has a heart that seems to see into the soul of a child who is lost, hurting, or afraid,” said Josh Belcher, principal, North Butler Elementary. “She uplifts the spirit and morale of every room she enters. When children see her coming down the hall, they get excited because they know she will take the time to greet them by name, give them a hug, and find out how their day is going.”

Prior to the ceremony, Renfrow and the finalists attended a reception in their honor, which provided opportunity for them to meet each other and Fred Shea. Video footage captured in each of the finalists' districts was presented during the final award presentation July 27. Each finalist received a \$250 check, overnight lodging at the Galt House Hotel, and a distinguished marble plaque detailing the award. The winner, Renfrow, received a \$500 check.

KASA's Leadership Awards Program is provided in partnership with American Fidelity Assurance Company.

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators is the largest school administrators' 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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