(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) Twenty-four of Kentucky’s most experienced superintendents are participating in a statewide mentoring program for new superintendents in the 2014-15 school year.

The New Superintendent Leadership Series is an annual program designed to assist Kentucky superintendents with less than 3 years of experience. Provided by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, the program is in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education.

As part of the KASA NxG Leadership Series, curriculum is aimed at creating strong 21st century school leaders. It has garnered attention as a potential national model for new superintendent training nationwide. The program is in its third year.

This year's program is providing assistance to 24 new superintendents. Each superintendent enrolled in the program is mentored by an experienced superintendent with custom-matched skills based on the mentors/mentee's strengths, district size, and geographic location.

A few of the pivotal tasks mentors assist KASA with to guide superintendents include:

- Development of a 30-60-90 day and an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)
- Incremental growth toward identified goals of the leader and the school district
- Guided data-driven discussions, using data from state and local resources
- Assistance with messaging for critical and timely situations
- 24/7 availability to provide support, attend board meetings, assist with the Capstone presentation; and help guide all matters of the school district
- Quarterly feedback and final evaluation of the superintendent's development and successful program completion

“Our superintendents say that this is one of the most valuable pieces of their training. The superintendency is a lonely position, because there’s no one else in the district who shares that job and those pressures. Having the opportunity to sit down with their mentor and talk about real issues immerses new superintendents in the skills they need to lead their districts,” Dr. Fred Carter, director of executive coaches and mentors, said.

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

SEE LIST OF MENTORS ON PAGE 2.
SUPERINTENDENT PROGRAM MENTORS:

Casey Allen, Ballard County Schools
Deatrah Barnett, Morgan County Schools
Lonnie Burgett, Mayfield Ind. Schools
Kathlyn Burkhardt, Erlanger-Elsmere Ind. Schools
Keith Davis, Bullitt County Schools
Andy Dotson, Harrison County Schools
Ronnie Dotson, Carter County Schools
James Flynn, Simpson County Schools
Steve Gilmore, Ashland Ind. Schools
Jason Travis Hamby, Trigg County Schools
Derek Sean Howard, Glasgow Ind. Schools
Randall W. Jackson, Allen County Schools
Scott Lewis, Ohio County Schools

Trent Lovett, Marshall County Schools
Bo Matthews, Barren County Schools
Sheila Mitchell, Anderson County Schools
Marvin Moore, Rowan County Schools
Scott Paul, Whitley County Schools
Boyd Randolph, Somerset Ind. Schools
Leon Smith, Russellville Ind. Schools
Tim Spencer, Breathitt County Schools
Robert Stafford, Owen County Schools
Henry Webb, Floyd County Schools
Rachel Yarbrough, Webster County Schools

READ MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

From Top:

Longtime Mayfield Independent Superintendent and former KASA President Lonnie Burgett listens to concerns of new superintendent Aaron Collins of Fulton County during the 2013 mentoring program.

Phil Eason, KASA executive coach for mentors and new superintendents, facilitates a discussion with John Millay of Meade County and Nick Brake of Owensboro Independent during the 2013 mentoring program.