(FRANKFORT, Ky.)—James Flynn, superintendent of Simpson County Schools, has been selected as the 2015 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA). He was presented the award today at Franklin Simpson High School in a surprise ceremony attended by faculty, staff, board members, KASA staff and the Honorable Wilson Stone and other local dignitaries. Flynn now competes for the National Superintendent of the Year Award, to be given by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) in February 2015.

“Dr. Jim Flynn is a dynamic, inventive and creative leader. Jim is willing to share his superintendent knowledge and is the go-to individual among his colleagues,” Boone County Superintendent Randy Poe, Ed.D., said. Poe won the 2013 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year Award and is a colleague of Flynn’s.

Now in its 28th year, the 2015 AASA National Superintendent of the Year Program pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead our nation’s public schools. Flynn was selected for his enthusiastic and iconic devotion to improving achievement levels for all students. Under his leadership, the district has had multiple successes with various programs targeting at-risk populations, has been a frontrunner in the now statewide Professional Growth and Evaluation System (PGES) for administrators, and has achieved a pervasive focus on nurturing the district’s learning culture.

Flynn is at the helm of a district with a free/reduced lunch rate of 62 percent, meaning over half of the students qualify for free or reduced rates for district-provided meals. Rated a Proficient district by the state of Kentucky, almost 98 percent of 2014 graduates from Simpson County earned a state credential as college-ready, career-ready, or both, which is about 35 percent higher than the state average for college- and career-readiness certification of 62.3 percent. One hundred percent of the district’s alternative school graduates were certified as college and/or career ready as well.

A lifelong learner, Flynn earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Western Kentucky University, a master’s degree in secondary education/biology from Texas A&M at Corpus Christi, and his Ed.D. from Northern Kentucky University.

Flynn began his career as a school administrator as the dean of students at Corpus Christi Academy in Texas before becoming an assistant principal in the Warren County Public Schools (Bowling Green), a principal in the Shelby County School District (Shelbyville), and the last 11 years as the superintendent of Simpson County Schools in Franklin.
Flynn is known among his colleagues for his devotion to what is right for kids, and he has instilled that value in his staff and in his colleagues around the state.

“His unwavering commitment to do “what's right” and “what's best for the children” is observable by every decision he makes, and at the same time, his commitment touches all around him…evidenced by the fact that his beliefs become the beliefs of others,” Milli McIntosh, nominator and Human Resources Director for Simpson County Schools, said.

Flynn has contributed significantly to the education community beyond his district, as well. In addition to various positions on local boards, he is a faculty member and mentor for the KASA leadership series for onboarding new superintendents. He also serves as past president of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents, vice chair of the Local Superintendents Advisory Council, and adjunct faculty for the Center for Leadership Excellence at Western Kentucky University.

“Jim understands that great leadership begins when you get back to the basics. He has worked diligently to create a school culture that inspires initiative, exploration, and service to others, and that culture is paying dividends back to the community every day through the entry of life-ready citizens,” KASA Executive Director Wayne Young said.

In addition to today's surprise ceremony, Flynn will receive a bronze eagle to commemorate the award, a $2500 scholarship for one of his high school students, and a 2015 Superintendent of the Year ring. He will also participate in celebration activities at the American Association of School Administrators' National Meeting on Public Education in February. The award is made possible by KASA and Classworks.

Representing more than 3,000 education leaders, KASA has members in every school district in the commonwealth. Since 1969, KASA has been connecting education leaders to policy makers, legislators, and other interest groups, in addition to providing benefits and services to Kentucky’s school administrators.

Click above to view this video from Flynn’s colleague and 2013 award winner Randy Poe, Superintendent of Boone County Schools!