

Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA)

Department of Information

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NEWS RELEASE

November 27, 2013

Hardin County Schools Superintendent Named 2014 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year

(Frankfort, Ky.)- Nannette Johnston, superintendent of Hardin County Schools, has been selected as the 2014 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA). She was presented the award today at the Hardin County Board of Education in a surprise ceremony attended by faculty, staff, board members and community leaders. Johnston will now compete for the National Superintendent of the Year Award, to be given by the American Association of School Administrators in February 2014.

KASA President Paul Mullins, the first-year superintendent in the Garrard County Schools, and a longtime acquaintance of Johnston's, said, "She has been a wonderful resource for me both professionally and personally. As a new superintendent, I find myself reflecting often on things she has shared and modeled."

Under Johnston's leadership, Hardin County has excelled in college and career readiness. The district recently kicked off their Hardin County Work Ethic Certification Program which is developed around eight work ethic standards they call "The Great Eight". The program is supported by the community financially, and through teaching and mentoring. Its goal is to assure that all Hardin County graduates have the personal skills and character traits – beyond academic preparation – to be successful in the workplace.

A lifelong learner, Johnston earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Louisville; a Master of Arts degree in elementary education, Rank 1 certification in administration and supervision and an endorsement in the superintendency, all from Western Kentucky University.

Prior to being named superintendent in 2007, Johnston served as interim superintendent, director of early childhood programs and a teacher, all in Hardin County.

In her community, Johnston serves on the board of directors of the Hardin County Elizabethtown Industrial Foundation, is a member of the CORE committee and the local YMCA strategic planning committee. Professionally, she is an active member of KASA and the American Association of School Administrators.

Kentucky Superintendent of the Year is not the first award Johnston has received. Other honors include the National Patriot Award, Kentucky Association of Education Office Professionals Superintendent of the Year, Kentucky Association of Pupil Transportation Superintendent of the Year, Distinguished Alumni for Hardin County Schools, Elizabethtown Community College and Chamber Education Award. Johnston was also one of two superintendents nationally chosen to serve on the U.S. Army ROTC National Subcommittee.

"All superintendents want what's best for the students in their charge," said Wayne Young, KASA executive director. "But Nannette sets the bar incredibly high when it comes to passionately advocating for what is best for children, without regard to the barriers or naysayers."

In addition to today's surprise ceremony, Johnston will be recognized at the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents winter conference December 9, 2013, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

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.

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