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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KASA Executive Earns Doctoral Degree from Northern Kentucky University

(HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky.)— Rhonda Caldwell of Danville graduated with a doctorate of education at Northern Kentucky University's 43rd commencement ceremony, held on May 9, 2015.

It's been a long road for Caldwell, who was admitted to a doctoral program in the spring of 2010, only to find out she had stage II breast cancer. She postponed her doctoral education, and after an 18-month battle, was admitted by NKU in 2013.

"This journey has been like so many others in life— it wasn't how I planned it or imagined it, but I got to the destination nonetheless. Because of that, the experience has been so much richer," Caldwell said. "I'm extremely thankful that I was given a second chance in life to take this on."

While at NKU, Caldwell co-authored her first book, an e-book as part of her senior thesis, titled *A Guide to Kentucky's NxG Leadership Series for Onboarding New Superintendents*.

"One thing we tell school leaders is that, at all costs, they must take time to continue learning, develop new skills, and give themselves time to become great leaders. Earning this degree has been a lifelong goal, and I hope it helps set the example for leaders everywhere who aspire to bring more to their work."

Caldwell is the executive director for the Center for Education Leadership and the deputy director of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, both in Frankfort, Ky. She is one of Kentucky's foremost education leaders, with over 25 years of service to public education.

She has served in various leadership capacities with the American Association of School Administrators, American Society of Association Executives, Asia Society and Partnership for Global Learning, Governor's Community Engagement/Preschool Task Force, Kentucky Education Action Team, Kentucky Society of Association Executives, Kentucky's NxG Leadership Series for New Superintendent Onboarding, Kentucky Minority Superintendent Intern Program, and as a registered lobbyist to the Kentucky General Assembly.

Caldwell is also a Certified Association Executive (CAE), a title held by less than five percent of association executives nationwide. She has received various state and national awards, including the University Council of Education Administration's Excellence in Education Leadership Award, the Oasis Award, and was selected for the Education Delegation to China (2009) and has studied the Finland (2012) and Ontario (2014) education systems. She has designed, grown, and/or implemented over 10 substantial programs during her tenure at the Kentucky Association of School Administrators.

Northern Kentucky University is a metropolitan institution of more than 15,000 students served by more than 2,000 faculty and staff on a thriving suburban campus near Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information, visit www.nku.edu.



After battling breast cancer for 18 months, Rhonda Caldwell earned her doctorate in education this month.

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