



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
TREY GRAYSON

NEWS RELEASE

RE: Thirteen Educators from Across Kentucky Recognized as Top Civic Educators  
DATE: March 19, 2010  
CONTACT: Les Fugate, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Office: (502) 564-3490  
Cell: (502) 229-3803  
[Les.Fugate@ky.gov](mailto:Les.Fugate@ky.gov)

(Frankfort, KY) At the center court of Rupp Arena, thirteen regional superstars were recognized today but not necessarily for their basketball skills. For the first time, thirteen of Kentucky's most outstanding civics education teachers were officially honored as finalists for the Kentucky Outstanding Civic Education Leadership Award. Judy Rice of Henry County High School, Region 8, was officially recognized as the 2010 Kentucky Outstanding Civic Education Leader. The award was presented by members of the Civic Literacy Initiative of Kentucky (CLIK) which includes: the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, the Office of Civic Education and Engagement at the University of Louisville College of Education, and the Office of Secretary of State Trey Grayson.

"We are so excited to recognize these outstanding teachers for the passion and incredible effort that each of them have put into teaching Kentucky students about the basics of American governmental principles," said Secretary of State Trey Grayson. "We hope that these efforts will further inspire these teachers to continue going above and beyond to make sure that students are exposed to these important topics."

The Award recognizes teachers who have made notable contributions toward promoting or implementing civic learning to prepare students to be engaged and responsible citizens. Today's honorees have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the classroom by promoting and strengthening civic education and by encouraging students to have citizen engagement in their communities.

Ms. Rice has been a social studies educator for over thirteen years and diligently works to make civics education "come alive" in the classroom. Ms. Rice has included the *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* and *Project Citizen* curricula in her classroom instead of outdated texts, which lead her students to make an actual change in local public policy. Her students participate in community service projects throughout her community.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Rice has been just as engaged with civic education. She has been a mentor for other teachers who are using the *Project Citizen* curriculum and is currently involved in the International Project Citizens Collaborative in which she and her class work with a Moroccan

civics teacher and his class to address increasing dropout rates in both communities. Finally, she was part of a team of educators who designed and implemented new units of study for a high school social studies course in partnership with the Office of Civic Education and Engagement at the University of Louisville.

The regional finalists were:

- Region 1 - Barry Leonard, Graves County High School
- Region 3 - Josh Roberts, Hancock County Middle School
- Region 4 - Adam Webster, Logan County High School
- Region 5 - Thad Elmore, Talton K Stone Middle School
- Region 6 - Angela Cunningham, Bullitt Central High School
- Region 7 - Allison Hunt, duPont Manual High School
- Region 8 - Judy Rice, Henry County High School
- Region 9 - Dee Besl, A.M. Yealey Elementary
- Region 11 - Sally Robinson, Berea Community High School
- Region 12 - Jason Bryant, King Middle School
- Region 13 - Amy Sizemore, Middlesboro Intermediate School
- Region 14 - Sandra Olinger, Hazard Independent School District
- Region 15 - Chase Goodman, Allen Central High School

The Outstanding Civic Education Leader was awarded \$500 to be used for school resources and equipment. Each finalist was also presented with a plaque recognizing their achievements.

“These teachers are empowering their Kentucky students to be participants in the democratic processes, developing higher understandings and positive attitudes about becoming responsible, actively engaged citizens through authentic experiences,” said Mendy Meehan, a Social Studies consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education. “They are guiding their students to respect authority and policymaking by allowing them the opportunity to be involved in school, community, and other public policy issues. These exemplary teachers are to be commended for their contributions to our students and the future of our Commonwealth.”

The award is part of a recommendation from CLIK, a multi-year effort that will determine a strategy for enhancing long-term civic engagement and civic literacy within the Commonwealth. As part of that effort, CLIK released a report, *Rediscovering Democracy: An Agenda for Action*, that calls upon the state to take tangible steps to increase civic literacy. The report, which details four principle recommendations and scores of additional recommendations, was developed from the work of the Kentucky Workgroup on Civic Literacy.

For more information about CLIK, the Kentucky Outstanding Civics Education Leader Award, or to find out how to get your school, organization, or family involved in civic activities, please visit: [www.civics.ky.gov](http://www.civics.ky.gov).