

For Immediate Release

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Johnson Co.'s Kimberly Tackett Recipient of the 2026 Office Professional Award

(Frankfort, Ky) — The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) is pleased to announce that Kimberly Tackett, secretary at Highland Elementary School in Johnson County Schools, has been named the 2026 recipient of the KASA Wanda Luttrell Office Professional Award. She was honored during a special presentation in her district on May 7.

This prestigious annual award recognizes an outstanding school or district office professional who exemplifies dedication, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence while supporting the daily work of school leadership. Recipients are widely regarded as the “pulse of the office,” playing a critical role in ensuring schools operate smoothly and effectively.



“Kimberly Tackett embodies the very best of Kentucky’s school office professionals,” said Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, KASA Chief Executive Officer. “Her ability to connect with students, staff, and families while managing the complex demands of a busy school office speaks to her exceptional skill and heart for service. Kimberly’s work ensures that everyone who walks through the doors of Highland Elementary feels welcomed, valued, and supported.”

Described by her colleagues as the “heartbeat of the school,” Tackett seamlessly manages the constant flow of activity in the front office—answering phones, greeting visitors, and assisting students—all with warmth, efficiency, and professionalism. She ensures that every interaction, whether in person or over the phone, reflects care and respect, helping create a positive and supportive environment for the entire school community.

Tackett’s commitment to continuous improvement is evident in her proactive approach to learning and innovation. She has taken initiative to expand her skills, including learning new scheduling systems and developing more efficient communication processes for staff. Her efforts to streamline transportation updates

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and support school-wide initiatives demonstrate her forward-thinking mindset and dedication to improving daily operations.

Beyond her technical skills, Tackett is known for her exceptional interpersonal abilities. She builds strong relationships with students, staff, and families, consistently demonstrating kindness, patience, and professionalism. Her attention to student safety and well-being is especially noteworthy, as she carefully follows protocols and remains vigilant in ensuring a secure environment for all.

Her principal noted that Tackett not only manages the responsibilities of the front office with precision, but also serves as a trusted partner in leadership—offering support, anticipating needs, and contributing to the overall effectiveness of the administrative team.

In every aspect of her work, Kimberly Tackett exemplifies the qualities of excellence, service, and leadership that define the KASA Wanda Luttrell Office Professional Award.

Selected by a panel of Kentucky school leaders, Tackett will receive a \$500 monetary award and a commemorative cherry gears clock, symbolizing her vital role in keeping her school running smoothly.

KASA's Leadership Awards program is provided in partnership with American Fidelity Assurance Company.

KASA is the largest school administrator organization in Kentucky, representing more than 3,300 education leaders across the Commonwealth. Founded in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers and provides professional development, advocacy, and support to strengthen public education in Kentucky.

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