**Gallatin County Parent Completes Parent Leadership Training**

LEXINGTON, KY – Gallatin County parent, Nicole Towles from Gallatin County Elementary School, was one of twenty-eight parents from northern Kentucky who graduated from the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership.  An initiative of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, the nationally recognized sixteen year program helps parents become more effective advocates for their children’s education.

 The parents participated in three two-day training sessions designed to increase their understanding of school performance and how to improve it. The parents will be responsible for conducting a follow-up project designed to accelerate the academic achievement of students at their children's school and to involve more parents in the effort.

The institute, which concluded on November 3rd in Florence, has prepared the parents to work toward higher achievement for all public school students by creating a new level of parent engagement. Since it was established in 1997, CIPL has trained more than 1,690 Kentucky parents as education advocates.

            On January 30th, the parents will present their individual projects to a CIPL project review panel. The members of the panel will consist of persons from the local school district, community, Prichard Committee members and past CIPL graduates.

            Primary support for the Northern Kentucky Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership came from grants from The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation, Toyota, State Farm Insurance and Duke Energy.

Starting in 2013 the institute's name will change to the Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership. The Institute’s mission of preparing parents to take leadership roles in parent-teacher organizations, school councils and committees, local school boards and in other roles that can positively influence student achievement will remain the same.

For more information about the Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership and how to register for the next Institute, visit [www.kygovcipl.org](http://www.kygovcipl.org) or call (859) 233-9849, ext. 231. Application acceptance will begin in mid-January 2013 for the Institutes scheduled for the fall of 2013.

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is a nonprofit citizens’ organization that works to improve education for all Kentuckians.

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