

The Excellence in Environmental Education Awards are presented annually by KAEE to recognize those individuals and entities best-exemplifying dedication, commitment, and influence in the field of environmental education. To be eligible for an award, each nominee demonstrated exemplary service to the field of environmental education in Kentucky. Many nominees develop an innovative curriculum for both teachers and students; research and apply environmental best management practices; provide educational experiences for learners; work towards legislation in the name of environmental education, and provide support for other educators in the field. Recipients are nominated by colleagues, partners, KAEE members, or the general public.

Natasha Parsons is known in her community to have single-handedly brought environmental education to Garrard Middle School where she uses agriculture and livestock to teach her 8th grade science classes. Thanks to her efforts, the school is creating an environmental science class to meet the demand from students for this type of class.

“Ms. Parsons has a way of making environmental education fun for every student whether they have grown up on a farm or if they’ve never lived in a home with a yard. Her students speak so highly of her and will even come in voluntarily to work in the school's greenhouse. She is the hidden gem of Garrard Middle School,” said Jessica Atallah.