



# Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

## Commissioner's Report October 2022

### KY Tech District of Area Technology Centers (ATCs)

The 50 state-operated Area Technology Centers (ATCs) are continuing to provide relevant and rigorous career and technical instruction to over 16,000 students this term. The ATCs are working to promote career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) which offer co-curricular resources and opportunities for students in the form of leadership development through activities, community service and competitions.

Mike Rutherford was in Kentucky three days during August and September to provide Feedback and Coaching Labs for 42 ATC teacher leaders and principals. The Feedback & Coaching Labs consisted of a series of onsite classroom observations and feedback/coaching episodes at Bullitt County ATC and Shelby County ATC.

Mike Rutherford @RLGMike · Sep 7  
Great to be back at Bullitt Co., KY ATC for #Feedback&CoachingLab!  
Thanks Mr. Ashford for sharing your electrical construction class with us.



Thanks to Dr. Sara Meadway and the team at Shelby County (KY) Area Technology Center for hosting yesterday's Feedback & Coaching Lab. We observed excellent teaching and our group of ATC admins delivered valuable feedback! #Feedback&CoachingLab #ArtisanTeacher #rutherfordlg.com



On September 9, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman was in Mayfield to dedicate a group of tiny homes which have been built to provide temporary housing for tornado victims. The Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC Electricity and Carpentry classes were recognized by the Lt. Governor for the work on this project.

In addition, the Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC Carpentry Class is partnering with The Fuller Center for Housing to build two new homes for tornado victims in Mayfield. Construction is scheduled to begin the 2nd week of October. The Electricity program will complete the wiring for several new homes and rebuilds in the city of Mayfield this school year.

Webster County ATC and Murray/Calloway County ATC SkillsUSA members attended the national SkillsUSA Washington Leadership Training Institute (WLTi) September 17-21. The WLTi offers advanced training for students and advisors that focuses on professionalism, communication and leadership skills. Activities included congressional visits and tours of Washington D.C. including monuments.



Garrard County ATC is pleased to share exciting opportunities for their students enrolled in Health Sciences. Health Sciences students recently demonstrated skills and provided tours to visitors including Senator Donald Douglas, M.D., Mr. Travis Burton and Mr. Jonathan Copley of the Kentucky Hospital Association, Dr. Connie Lamb of BCTC and Garrard BOE, and Mrs. Jerri Rowland with the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education.



On Wednesday, September 21st, Advance Auto Parts district managers Matt Belcher and Cody Tucker presented Breathitt County ATC Automotive instructor, Darryl Cole and principal Joe Mayabb a check for \$25,000 to use for supplies and equipment to assist in the efforts to rebuild the program after the historic flooding in July.



Hazard Community & Technical College (HCTC) is serving as a temporary location for Breathitt County ATC. The HCTC staff invited Breathitt County ATC students to participate in their annual Back to School Bash.



Knott County ATC started school on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup> in the Knott County High School. Renovation and repairs of the ATC building are underway, with tentative completion in February of 2023.

The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start! The Office of Career and Technical Education is working to support our ATCs as they strive to create new opportunities for students to increase engagement and achievement. #UnitedWeLearn

### Kentucky School for the Blind

The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) currently has an enrollment of 70 students, consisting of both residential and dorm students.

Middle School and High School MAP testing was completed the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Bill Roby track and field games will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Elementary students from KSB, Jefferson County, Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS), Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee will participate.

KSB is using the program Smore to publish a weekly newsletter. The link is sent to families every Friday and is published on KSB's website and Facebook page. Please see link below.

### [KSB Wildcat Weekly](#)

Track and Field athletes attended the Tennessee Track and Field Invitational September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Eleven athletes competed against schools for the blind from Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana.

Misty Epperson has been hired as the Outreach Consultant for Deaf Blind Services. Working closely with the consultant from Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), Epperson will provide supports and technical assistance to school districts in the southern region of the Commonwealth.

The first Low Vision Clinic of the school year was held at KSB on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The second was held in Scott County on October 10<sup>th</sup>.



## Kentucky School for the Deaf

Formative assessments are continuing to occur daily across all classrooms with data submission for analysis and next steps instruction. School Safety Drills have occurred both in KSD classrooms and dorms with more practice to come. KSD staff have identified a need for additional outside alarms across campus and will collaborate with the campus capital projects manager to determine next steps for installation.

KSD welcomed several new staff this school year. Assistant Principal, Dr. Faneshia Jones is a former Educational Recovery Leader (ERL) and Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning in Fayette County. HS Math Teacher, Doug Sharp comes to KSD with 30 years' experience in the classroom. Food Service Director, Laura McKinney has 15 plus years in the restaurant industry and has already made a huge impact on the number of meals eaten by both students and staff. American Sign Language (ASL) Specialist, Samantha Fowler has joined the team to provide ASL instruction to students. This is a critical position for KSD because there is a strong correlation between ASL proficiency and English

acquisition. Receiving a rich learning experience in ASL is vital for KSD students' future reading success. Lastly, School Resource Officer (SRO) Todd Davis has joined the team for first shift. Two Robotics coaches have been invited to California School for the Deaf to attend Robotics training through federal funding from Alabama Institute for Deaf Blind.

Keva Buckley is one of the Teachers of the Year Finalists. KSD is proud of Ms. Buckley's accomplishments and the amazing teaching and learning that takes place daily in her classroom. She truly pushes students to high levels of learning!

A KSD student, Bentley White, presented to the Joint Committee on Education focused on the Team Kentucky Mental Health Initiative last month. KSD is proud of his advocacy and leadership!