



# 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Update

Mandy Perez, Crittenden County Middle School



Kentucky Department of  
**EDUCATION**

# The Journey Begins



This program not only provides an opportunity for a teacher to share a platform—it also offers a window into the Kentucky Department of Education and its partnership with districts, schools, families, students, businesses and communities to provide leadership and support for all.



# Ripple Effects: How KDE has inspired me to be an advocate

The Inspiration: Meeting with Byron Darnall, Ed.D., KDE Associate Commissioner



“ Every person has one teacher that impacted them. Why wouldn't you want every child to experience that same feeling? ”

Dr. Byron Darnall  
KDE Associate Commissioner  
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

# Ripple Effects: Impacting Students in Kentucky and across the Nation

Relationship-building with the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council



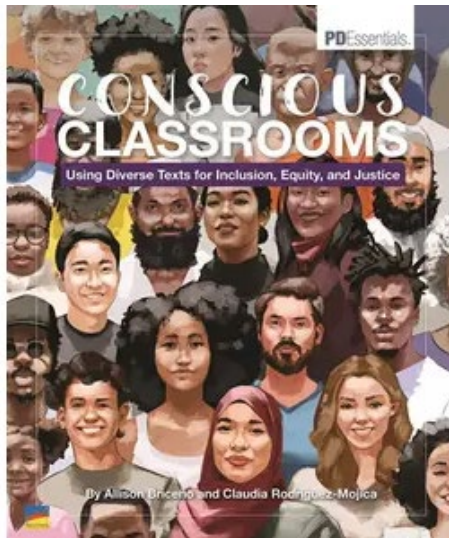
Invitation to speak at Marshall County 2nd Annual Women's Leadership Forum



# Ripple Effects: How *Conscious Classrooms* inspired me to be an advocate

How old were you when you first saw yourself reflected in a book?

*Encouraging teachers to expose students to diverse texts*



## Presenter: Creating Conscious Classrooms with Diverse Texts

2023 Teaching and Technology Summit  
Murray State University  
#MSUSUMMIT2023

# Ripple Effects: Sparking Innovation into Learning

Be Connected: Opportunities to help me grow as an educator



# Representing Kentucky at the White House



*“As a rural Kentucky educator, I champion for teachers to include diverse texts in their curriculum because every child deserves to be seen, valued, heard and loved even if they’re the only student in the class that may be different.”*



# Thank You!



**Suggestions, comments or questions?**  
Please email me at  
[mandy.perez@education.ky.gov](mailto:mandy.perez@education.ky.gov)



Kentucky Department of  
**EDUCATION**