

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

Topic: Recipient of the 2026 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education

Date: April 2026

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SYNOPSIS OF WHAT YOU WILL BE SHARING:

Approval of candidate number five (5) as the recipient of KBE's 2026 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Candidate number five (5) was recommended by the KBE Awards Committee and was vetted by KDE staff. As such, the Commissioner recommends approval of candidate number five (5) as the recipient of KBE's 2026 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The Kentucky Board of Education annually grants the Robinson award to a Kentuckian or Kentucky organization demonstrating extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of educational diversity and equity. Criteria for receiving the award includes, but is not limited to: (1) successful efforts in closing socioeconomic and/or racial achievement gaps; and (2) significantly improving student learning, student achievement, or other measured outcomes among students of color or economically disadvantaged students.

The award is given in honor of Dr. Samuel Robinson, a former member of the KBE who made diversity and equity in public education his life's work. A noted educator and civil rights leader, Dr. Robinson began his career in public education in Louisville in 1960. His diverse background in public education included everything from principal at Shawnee High School to President of the Lincoln Foundation. Dr. Robinson was a well-known community figure as Louisville navigated the Civil Rights era.

Summary of Issue:

Final selection and approval of candidate number five (5) as the recipient of KBE's 2026 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education.

Budget Impact:

N/A

Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:

Candidate number five (5) was recommended by the KBE Awards Committee and was vetted by KDE staff.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Dr. GlyptusAnn Grider-Jones, Director of Education Policy

Office of the Commissioner
Email: glyptusann.jones@education.ky.gov
(502) 564-2000 Ext. 4616



Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commissioner's Management |