

For Immediate Release
September 24, 2012

Gheens Institute to Host Creativity and Entrepreneurship Awards

The Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) Gheens Institute for Innovation will host the 2012 Creativity and Entrepreneurship Awards on **Thursday, September 27, 2012, at 3:30 p.m. at the Muhammad Ali Center**, 144 North Sixth Street. The Gheens Institute will honor the Society for the Prevention of Violence among Adolescents (SPAVA) and Dr. Timir Banerjee; the LG&E KU/WHAS11 ExCEL Awards; the Louisville chapter of The Links, Incorporated; Carol M. Miller, retired principal of McFerran Preparatory Academy; and Dr. Deanna Shobe Tinsley, retired JCPS administrator, as the 2012 Pioneer Innovator Awardees for their contributions to supporting student achievement in the JCPS District.

The event will also honor district winners of the 2012 Creativity and Entrepreneurship Award who have demonstrated practices that exemplify creativity and innovation as well as the student winners of the Gheens Institute for Innovation Dare to Dream art competition. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Dewey Hensley will deliver the keynote address.

The Gheens Institute for Innovation promotes innovative programs, projects, and activities within the district and the community.

2012 Pioneer Innovator Awardees

Eliminating Barriers to Learning

Society for the Prevention of Violence among Adolescents (SPAVA)

Dr. Timir Banerjee, a retired Jefferson County neurosurgeon, began SPAVA to help with his dream of having conversations with students on developing a nonviolent, peaceful community. SPAVA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization developed to help teach Jefferson County students a nonviolent approach to life. SPAVA volunteers are community members who volunteer their time to mentor students. These mentors help students learn the skills of anger and aggression control through negotiation. Mentors teach respect, honor, integrity, resilience, and perseverance with challenges. SPAVA is now teaching more than 2,200 students between Louisville and Canada and has 75 mentors working in more than 70 classes. SPAVA also gives students monetary awards toward postsecondary education.

Excellence in Teaching and Learning

LG&E KU/WHAS11 ExCEL Awards

The purpose of the LG&E KU/WHAS11 Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership (ExCEL) Award is to recognize and reward the contributions of teachers to the development and well-being of our young people and the community. This award recognizes teachers who exemplify teaching excellence using innovation, excitement, and enthusiasm in their teaching methodology; maintain meaningful personal relationships with students, parents, colleagues, and community members; are role models of professionalism and citizenry; and are personally committed to continued professional development and enhancement. Since 1989, more than

300 teachers have received the award, which includes a \$1,000 instructional grant from LG&E KU.

Supporting Students in After-School Programs

The Links, Incorporated

The Links, Incorporated, is among the oldest and largest volunteer organizations of women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of the African-American community and those of African ancestry. Members of the Louisville Chapter have carried forth the tradition in Louisville since 1951. Programs have been developed by the Louisville chapter to ensure that neighborhoods and families with the greatest needs are served. They have organized health fairs, provided school supplies, accompanied children to arts events and college tours, and provided tutoring services in the Park Hill neighborhood. They recently formed the Louisville Links Academy to guide students to be academically successful and lay the foundation for going to college. The program operates in Park Hill and Olmsted Academy South.

Outstanding School Leadership

Carol M. Miller

Carol Miller was principal at John B. McFerran Elementary for 29 years. Always on the cutting edge of innovation, she was the first JCPS principal to pilot and implement student uniforms. To further emphasize a strong focus on student achievement, she facilitated a name change for the school to the McFerran Preparatory Academy. Serving more than 90 percent free and reduced-price meal students, Miller's Accountability Index was one of the highest in JCPS for more than five years. Hundreds of visitors each year visited her school to observe her exemplary leadership practices, including such organizations as the U.S. Department of Education and the Broad Foundation for Urban Education. She was awarded the Kentucky Association of Elementary School Principals Principal of the Year Award in 2006 and was also recognized as the JCPS Principal of the Year in 2005. Several articles recognizing her success in one of the district's most challenging schools have appeared in national educational journals. Through her work with two educational sororities, Miller also mentors young women who are either studying to become teachers or are beginning their teaching careers.

Dr. Deanna Shobe Tinsley

Dr. Deanna Shobe Tinsley is a retired administrator of JCPS, where she served in the role of teacher, principal, staff development specialist, director of elementary student assignment, and assistant superintendent for elementary schools for 40 years. She has also served as the administrator educator for the Kentucky Principal Internship Program in Jefferson and Shelby Counties. Dr. Tinsley is a member of the Greater Louisville Alliance of Black School Educators (GLABSE); the Louisville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; the 1992 class of Leadership Louisville; and a lifetime member of the NAACP. In the early 1960s, Dr. Tinsley participated in boycotts and integration struggles and encouraged other young people to advocate for civil rights in the community. During her long career in the local school system, she has been a strong believer in the basic efficacy for engineering successful interracialism among our schools. She recently served on the committee to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the civil rights struggle in Louisville with a Fourth Street marker. Her innovation in education has earned her the Milburn T. Maupin School Administrators Award, the Support Administrator of the Year Award from JCPS, certificates of achievement from GLABSE and the University of Louisville (UofL) Women's Center, and the Central Area Awards for 25 years of service to The Links. Dr.

Tinsley was featured in the book *Kentucky Women: Two Centuries of Indomitable Spirit and Vision*.

Gheens Institute for Innovation Creativity and Entrepreneurship Awards 2012 District Innovation Awardees

Excellence in Teaching and Learning

U.S. Postcard Exchange

Stephanie Slates—Detrick-McFerran Early Childhood Center

"Somewhere over the rainbow, dreams really do come true!" However, preschoolers at Detrick-McFerran Early Childhood Center see their dreams come true every day as they travel to a "rainbow" of faraway places through an innovative classroom project entitled "U.S. Postcard Exchange." The project is an innovative approach to expanding the vocabulary of young children as they learn about the geography of other states. The project is unique because students learn geography through postcards, pictures, and stories. It allows students to travel anywhere in the United States via postcards exchanged with students from other states. As students are introduced to a new state, they begin to question how other people live, work, and play. They want to learn about customs, traditions, and cultures. The U.S. Postcard Exchange Project opens paths to learning many new facts and concepts and fosters language development for young children.

The Stem Project

Stephanie Nutter, Sarah Reed, Deborah Rivera—Field Elementary

"Dare to Dream ... of a school where every student is proficient in English/Language Arts!" Teachers at Field Elementary believe this dream can come true. They have designed an innovative project to support student achievement and enhance collaboration among teachers and staff at their school. The Stem Project uses wiki space to convert the English/language arts Common Core Standards into answer stems. Using anchor charts, they created answer stems for each grade level for both the informational and literature-reading standards. Project leaders introduced the wiki space to the other teachers and showed them how to collaborate on text documents. In-school professional learning communities (PLCs) mapped the school curriculum and developed answers, identified best practices for helping students use the answer stems, analyzed student work, charted academic progress, and noted gains in student proficiency. The wiki space became a source of creativity and innovation because it spread innovative ideas, seeded new approaches, and enlarged the inventory of grade-level answer stems that are evidenced as anchor charts in teachers' classrooms.

Ruff Ruff Readers

Elizabeth Fuller—Atkinson Academy

Trainers: Elaine Weisberg (Oliver), Ann Egan (Yoshi and Vinnie), Kate Underwood (Heidi), and Sharon and Jerry Klopfenstein (Val)

Math Pawsibilities

Krista Seymour—Noe Middle School

Trainer/Volunteer: Lesley Nord (Bella)

"Dare to dream of classrooms where man's best canine friend becomes a partner in education." One must only visit Noe Middle School and Atkinson Academy to see this dream come true in

the classrooms of Krista Seymour and Elizabeth Fuller. Students at Noe Middle School and Atkinson Academy have “gone to the dogs” to learn mathematics and increase reading skills. Math Pawsibilities at Noe Middle School and Ruff Ruff Readers at Atkinson Academy are both innovative projects that bring dogs into classrooms to increase students’ interest in academics (reading and mathematics) and motivate them to get excited about their school work. The programs also encourage community volunteers to become involved with students as they gain self-confidence and increase achievement levels. The dogs serve as de-stressors for students, teachers, and community volunteers.

Good Computer Kids

Russell Hockenbury—Chenoweth Elementary

“Dream the impossible dream ... in the technology classroom at Chenoweth Elementary!” Good Computer Kids is an innovative model for using puppetry, animation, original music, and digital storytelling to learn technology and digital citizenship concepts. The characters represented on the show are the unique creations of Russ Hockenbury and the San Francisco-based business 5000 Puppets. It is an entirely new approach to teaching digital citizenship and technology concepts through stories that are captivating to students in a medium (the Internet) accessible by anyone. Students learn to use technology as a tool for creation, expression, and community building. Good Computer Kids is a fun way to make learning stick for Chenoweth students.

Humanities Festival

Martha Bartlett, Kara Parker, Krista Pierce, Michael Sorendo, Letitia Usher—South Park TAPP

The Humanities Festival project is an innovative, collaborative event that celebrates the arts at South Park TAPP. The Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, English, World Language, and Chorus Departments collaborated to produce a humanities festival that included the art forms of visual art, playwriting, music, dance, and performance. The culminating cultural event exposes the students to a variety of arts and cultural experiences, resulting in the students writing 10-minute plays in English class that are produced and performed by theatre arts students, and visual art students design and create scenes. The final festival showcases the students’ original work.

Supporting Students After School

Young Schoolyard Garden/Read and Weed

Cabrina Bosco—Young Elementary School

Students at Young Elementary have found an amazing way to learn that most of their food comes from the soil. In school, they study good nutrition and eating healthy and they learn about the life cycle of plants, but students don’t always connect the two—growing plants and eating right. The Young Schoolyard Garden Project, an after-school Read and Weed Program, not only shows students how gardening and eating fruits and vegetables are connected, but they experience it firsthand by planting seeds or plants, maintaining them (watering and weeding), harvesting the produce, cooking/preparing the bounty, and eating it. Students planted four beds and read about soil, pollination, and the plant life cycle. But most importantly, they learned to love nature, where food really comes from, and that fresh strawberries off the vine are heavenly sweet.

Eliminating Barriers to Learning School Partnerships

Credit Unions @ Schools/Class Act Federal Credit Union

Tom Anonson, Glenn Baete, Bryce Hibbard, Mary Jackey, Kenneth Moeller, Dana Shumate, Tammy Slaughter, Tom Watson

"Dare to dream of going to college, securing a good job, owning a home and a new car." Students at two high schools are learning financial strategies for fulfilling their dreams through an innovative partnership with the Class Act Federal Credit Union. The Credit Unions @ School Program is an innovative approach to teaching students about financial management that uses hands-on, functional learning while providing real-life experiences in banking and saving. In an effort to fulfill its mission to provide financial education to youth, Class Act Federal Credit Union opened full-service branch offices on the campuses of Doss and Southern High Schools. Rather than focusing on textbook learning, students learn the value of saving early and accumulating assets, banking skills, and the value of positive work experience by actually running the branch office.

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE)

Donna Benton, Lea Pauley Goff, Brent Harrod, Todd Horstmeyer, Ben Jackey, Robbie Jones, Kim Katzman, Ted King, Hon. William L. Knopf, Mike McClain, Brian Meldrum, Jan Mester, Sam Moody, Jason Polete, Dr. Brian Shumate, Andrew Stosberg, Melinda Sunderland, Theresa White

"Dare to dream of attorneys and judges instructing students on financial planning and management!" The CARE Program is an innovative project where lawmakers come together to serve as role models for ensuring that JCPS high school students are financially literate. The CARE Program is presented to students in 22 JCPS high schools and in 2012 reached more than 5,274 students. The content includes major themes, such as developing a financial mindset, creating a personal budget, using credit cards, securing loans, and maintaining a good credit rating. Modeled on a program created by a bankruptcy judge in New York, the JCPS team has created new curriculum materials supported by an innovative Web site that allows easy access for local attorneys and judges to participate. The CARE Program is the largest social service presentation in Kentucky.

Parental Involvement

Kentucky Core Academic Standards Parent Workshops

Carol Bartlett, Jessie Bray, Cherie Dimar, Aneeka Ferrell, Teri Gale, Lynn Green, Heather McGovern, Theresa Mayfield, Toni Smith, Eddie Squires, Brian Wampler, Heather Wampler, and Sharon Whitworth

The 15th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA), JCPS staff, and Jefferson County Teachers Association (JCTA) were thinking outside the box as they designed and implemented a unique Kentucky Core Academic Standards Parent Workshops series. The workshops were the result of district departments, parents, and community representatives working collaboratively to ensure that all role groups were disseminating the same message about the Common Core Standards. The 15th District PTA was one of the first districts in the country to receive a grant from National PTA to talk to parents and the community about the Common Core Standards. The workshop series helped parents feel comfortable talking with teachers and school staff about their child's educational goals. The long-term impact of their project will be that parents/caregivers will become key stakeholders in increasing student achievement.

Health and Wellness

Cosponsored by the Kentucky Children's Health & Fitness Fund Inc.

WEE Walk Well

Pamela Sutton—Detrick-McFerran Early Childhood Center

"The Power of the Dream" is alive and well as future young Olympians at the Detrick-McFerran Early Childhood Center incorporate fun and fitness into their daily school routine. WEE Walk Well, the One-Mile Walkers Pedometer Program, establishes new fitness standards and expectations for Early Childhood students. Rain, sleet, sunshine, or snow, the preschool students use pedometers as they take a one-mile walk around the Millers Mile Track at McFerran Preparatory Academy. The young students also participate in class discussions on their number of steps, the number of calories burned, and supporting fitness with healthy eating habits. Students take ownership of the program and clearly articulate the purpose of their pedometer. They calculate steps for a weekly math activity, and they practice reading numbers from their pedometer. The young students also analyze their results, providing them the opportunity to analyze and interpret data from a graph. The WEE Walk Well Program is an outstanding example of using creative thinking and practical know-how to do old things with a new population.

A Dynamic Interdisciplinary School Garden

Joseph Franzen/Fern Creek Traditional High School

Who would ever dare to dream that the Dynamic School Garden Program at Fern Creek Traditional High School could interweave gardening, food production, culinary arts, vocational training, social justice, literature, sustainability, horticulture, and manual labor into a curriculum that pushes the limits of what a student gets out of his or her education. Students use interdisciplinary learning to become a community of critical thinkers who graduate with the tools to be successful, functional adults who can sell homemade jams, shake someone's hand, own their own vegetable production business, or become a serious recycler. The program enables students to learn about food; how to raise, sell, and market it; and how to cook it.

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