

Kentucky Department of Education

DURELL “BUTCH” HAMM NAMED 2010 KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Durell “Butch” Hamm, an English teacher at Larry A. Ryle High School in Boone County, has been named Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made today at a ceremony held at the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet auditorium in Frankfort by [Ashland Inc.](#) and the Kentucky Department of Education. Gov. Steve Beshear, First Lady Jane Beshear, Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Helen Mountjoy, Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday and Ashland Chairman and CEO Jim O’Brien were on hand to make the presentation.

Jan Vaughn Horn, a 5th-grade language arts teacher at Shearer Elementary School in Clark County, was named 2010 Elementary School Teacher of the Year, and Melissa Evans, a 7th-grade science teacher at Corbin Middle School in the Corbin Independent school district, was named 2010 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

The three joined 21 other teachers from across the state honored with 2010 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards. Horn and Evans received \$3,000 each and a customized, art-glass vase from Ashland Inc., while Hamm received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal-glass bowl. In addition, the Department of Education will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative for Hamm, who also will represent the state in the 2010 National Teacher of the Year competition. The remaining 21 winners each received \$500 cash awards. All 24 teachers received framed certificates and were further recognized at a luncheon following the ceremony.

DURELL “BUTCH” HAMM

A 24-four year teaching veteran, Butch Hamm has taught English and communication courses at Larry A. Ryle High School for four years. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Morehead State University; library media services certification at Marshall University in Charleston, West Virginia; and a Rank 1 certification in rhetoric and communications from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Hamm is leader of the 11th-grade Individual Learning Team and has been a Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) resource teacher. He received a Kentucky Distinguished Teacher Award from the Presidential Scholars and U.S. Department of Education and an Excellence in Teaching Award from Campbellsville University. Hamm coached a debate team that won two consecutive state championships in the Kentucky High School Speech League. His professional affiliations include the American Library Association; American Association of School Librarians; National Council of Teachers of English; and the National, Kentucky and Boone County Education associations.

JANE VAUGHN HORN

Jane Vaughn Horn is beginning her ninth year of teaching and her sixth year at Shearer Elementary, where she teaches language arts to 5th-grade students. Horn earned a bachelor’s degree at Transylvania University and a master’s degree and

Rank 1 certification from Eastern Kentucky University. She serves as the chairperson of the Shearer Elementary School-Based Decision Making Council, on which she has served since 2005, and as a supervising teacher through the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP). She is the recipient of a 2009 Campbellsville University Excellence in Teaching and a 2009 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award. She also supports educational initiatives in her community through involvement in the Books to Bridges Program and as coordinator for a Parent/Student/Teacher Book Club and a Blue Grass Pride Outdoor Classroom grant. Horn's professional affiliations include Pi Lambda Theta and the Kentucky Education Association.

MELISSA REBECCA EVANS

Melissa Evans has taught for 16 years, with the past seven as a science teacher for 7th-grade students at Corbin Middle School. Evans earned bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as Rank 1 certification, from Union College. She has performed in leadership capacities throughout her career and currently serves as a resource teacher for the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) and for student teachers from Union College, the University of the Cumberlands and Eastern Kentucky University. In 2009, Evans was a finalist in the National Geographic Hands-On Explorer Teacher Challenge Awards program. She was nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching and was a Fund for Teachers 2009 Summer Sabbatical (Egypt) recipient. Evans' professional affiliations include the National Middle School Association; National and Kentucky Science Teachers associations; and the National and Kentucky Education associations.

This is the ninth year Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education have co-sponsored the Kentucky Teacher Achievement Awards. Applications for the program were distributed across the state, and the first tier of the selection process was completed in August, with 24 teachers selected as 2010 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners. Nine top scorers – three each from the elementary, middle and high school levels – were selected, and teams of educators visited their classrooms to view them at work and to conduct personal interviews. From those nine, three were selected as 2010 Kentucky Teachers of the Year. The overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year's selection was based on a compilation of scores from all phases of judging.

Ashland Inc. has recognized outstanding teachers through its Teacher Achievement Awards Program since 1988. Since that time, more than \$600,000 has been awarded to nearly 400 teachers in grades K through 12.

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