1-24-2008

UA3/9/5 Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

WKU President’s Office

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records

Part of the Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Higher Education Administration Commons, Leadership Studies Commons, Public Relations and Advertising Commons, and the Speech and Rhetorical Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/4180

This Transcription is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
KENTUCKY TEACHER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

JANUARY 24, 2008, 1 P.M. (ET)

WELCOME BY DR. GARY RANSDELL

WELCOME. I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THIS CEREMONY, WHICH HONORS THREE OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

IT IS FITTING THAT WE CONDUCT THIS CEREMONY IN THE ROTUNDA OF OUR STATE’S CAPITOL AS OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS MEET TO CHART THE COURSE FOR OUR SHARED FUTURE IN THE COMMONWEALTH. AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IS ABSOLUTELY THE KEY TO THAT FUTURE. A FACT RECOGNIZED BY FORMER GOVERNOR LOUIE B. NUNN AND OUR CURRENT GOVERNOR STEVE BESHEAR. IT WAS THROUGH A GIFT BY GOVERNOR NUNN THAT THE LOUIE B. NUNN KENTUCKY TEACHER HALL OF FAME WAS CREATED IN 2000. I RECALL FONDLY THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH GOVERNOR NUNN AND I SHARED SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN HE CONCEIVED THE IDEA AND PROPOSED THAT IT BE LOCATED AT WKU. HIS DESIRE WAS TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS IN KENTUCKY PLAY IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT A GOOD EDUCATION HAS ON OUR STATE’S ECONOMY AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR CITIZENS, HE VALUED OUR TEACHERS, HE WANTED TO CREATE A LEGACY TO EDUCATION. WELL DONE GOVERNOR NUNN!

In a time when our Commonwealth and our nation face so many social and financial challenges, the one thing on which most of us agree is that education is the key to a more enlightened, a more financially secure, and a more pleasant future.
AS A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, I AM AWARE OF THE IMPACT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS HAVE IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE NEXT LEVEL OF EDUCATION. STUDENTS WHO BENEFIT FROM THE INSTRUCTION OF TEACHERS SUCH AS THE THREE WE ARE HONORING TODAY, HAVE A GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS WHEN THEY REACH THE COLLEGE CAMPUS.

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT WKU WAS SELECTED TO HOUSE THE KENTUCKY TEACHER HALL OF FAME. FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, WKU HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS ENTRUSTED WITH OUR CHILDREN. WKU, SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1906, AS THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, AND ITS EVOLUTION FROM WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE TO A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH, HAS PRODUCED THE LARGEST NUMBER OF TEACHERS WITH BACHELORS, MASTERS, AND RANK ONE DEGREES, AND PRODUCED THE HIGHEST SCORES ON THE STATE PRAXIS CERTIFICATION EXAM AMONG ALL OF THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN KENTUCKY. IN 101 YEARS, WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS TO EDUCATE AND FACILITATE THE EDUCATION OF OUR YOUTH. AND WHILE WE ARE PROUD THAT THE HALL OF FAME WILL BE HOUSED ON OUR CAMPUS, THE FOCUS IS ON KENTUCKY. NOMINATIONS CAME FROM ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH TO A SELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMED BY DR. SAM EVANS, DEAN OF WKU’S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES. THE COMMITTEE'S TASK WAS BY NO MEANS EASY, EVEN WITH THE THREE OUTSTANDING TEACHERS WE ARE HONORING TODAY. EACH NOMINEE MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 18 YEARS OF TEACHING
EXPERIENCE, 10 OF WHICH HAVE BEEN IN PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KENTUCKY

NOW, I’D LIKE TO CALL ON MY FRIEND, STEVE NUNN, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES, WHO HAS SERVED HIS FATHER’S LEGACY WELL THROUGHOUT HIS OWN IMPRESSIVE PUBLIC LIFE, INCLUDING HIS YEARS AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE FROM BARREN COUNTY
JAN WEAVER LANHAM HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL AT COX’S CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NELSON COUNTY SINCE 2003, BUT IN HER 32-YEAR CAREER IN EDUCATION, SHE HAS TAUGHT IN MULTIPLE GRADES IN MULTIPLE SETTINGS, FROM INNER CITY COLUMBUS, OHIO, TO AFFLUENT OWENSBORO AND BOWLING GREEN TO RURAL MARION COUNTY. SHE SAYS THAT EACH NEW DIRECTION HAS PROVIDED REJUVENATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH.

JAN LISTS AS CAREER HIGHLIGHTS HER TIME AS A TEACHER AT L.C. CURRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BOWLING GREEN, WHERE SHE TAUGHT WITH HER MOTHER; BEING THE TEACHER/COORDINATOR OF THE MARION COUNTY GIFTED EDUCATION MODULE; BEING A PARTICIPANT IN THE KENTUCKY WRITING PROJECT; USING A GRANT TO ESTABLISH THE MARION COUNTY YOUTH CHORUS; BEING NAMED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR BY THE MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; BEING NAMED THE FINE ARTS TEACHER AT GLASSCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MARION COUNTY; AND BEING NAMED PRINCIPAL AT COX’S CREEK.
SHE HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MUSIC AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION WITH GIFTEDENDORSEMENT AND A RANK 1 IN ADMINISTRATION, ALL FROM WKU. SHE IS CURRENTLY IN THE JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP BETWEEN WKU AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE.

PATRICE MCCRARY

FOR 19 YEARS, PATRICE MCCRARY SAYS SHE HAS BEEN PAID TO DO WHAT SHE LOVES—TEACH, AND THAT LOVE FOR PROFESSION AND STUDENTS SHOWS. PATRICE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOR HER TEACHING. SHE WAS NAMED THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR IN BOWLING GREEN/WARREN COUNTY; KENTUCKY ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR; KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND TO THE USA TODAY ALL TEACHER TEAM.

PATRICE BEGAN HER CAREER IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, AND HAS SPENT THE LAST 14 YEARS AT CUMBERLAND TRACE ELEMENTARY IN BOWLING GREEN. SHE HAS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FROM BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE IN MISSISSIPPI AND MASTER'S IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FROM WKU.

HER TEACHING STYLE IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE EXCITEMENT HER STUDENTS EXHIBIT ABOUT LEARNING AND BY HER INVOLVEMENT IN HER STUDENTS' LIVES. SHE SAYS SHE SHOWS HER STUDENTS THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO HER BY SHOWING THEM RESPECT AND BY COMING TO OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS BALLGAMES AND RECITALS, MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND EVENTS TO WHICH SHE IS INVITED.
SHELIA ANN MILLER

WHEN SHELIA ANN MILLER RETIRED IN 2007, IT SIGNALED THE END OF AN AMAZING 47 YEAR CAREER TEACHING MUSIC IN DAVIESS COUNTY. DURING HER TENURE, SHE HAS PRODUCED FOUR GENERATIONS OF MUSIC LOVERS AND A WORKFORCE OF MUSIC EDUCATORS AND PRACTITIONERS.

HER CAREER BEGAN IN 1960 AND BY 1963 SHE HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO THE COVETED POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE DAVIESS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR. SHE HAS CONDUCTED HER STUDENTS IN MORE THAN 1,000 CONCERTS, COMPETITIONS AND STAGE PRODUCTIONS. SHE ENCOURAGED HER STUDENTS TO FIND THEMSELVES IN THEIR MUSIC, ORIGINAL IDEAS AND WORLD AND TO PRACTICE INTEGRITY AND STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN PURSUIT OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL GOALS AND DREAMS.

DURING HER CAREER, SHEILA WAS HONORED WITH THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD FROM ASHLAND OIL CO., THE OWENSBORO MAYOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE, THE ELIZABETH MUNDAY RECOGNITION HONOR FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ADVOCACY FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS, THE IT'S ABOUT KIDS SECONDARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM DAVIESS COUNTY SCHOOLS AND WAS TWICE NAMED THE DAVIESS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

SHE IS A GRADUATE OF MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY.

REMARKS FROM HOUSE LEADERSHIP (TO BE DETERMINED)

REMARKS FROM SENATE LEADERSHIP (TO BE DETERMINED)
DR. RANSDELL’S CLOSING REMARKS

CALL FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE INDUCTEES.

Speaker Richards on behalf of the GA.

- Thank you all for being a part of this important ceremony, and a special thanks to Gov. Beshear.

- This is the first of what will be an annual ceremony celebrating teaching excellence. I encourage you to take with you a nomination packet for the second class of the Louie Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame and nominate those you feel are deserving. We hope to see you back next year.