

Teachers honored for 2008 Teacher Achievement Awards

Three Fayette County educators have been named semifinalists for the 2008 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards. Morton Middle's Crystal Dixon, Henry Clay High's Karen Gill, and SCAPA Bluegrass' Beth Randolph will be recognized, along with 17 other educators from around the state, in ceremonies in Frankfort on October 19.

The three Fayette teachers and six other semifinalists were chosen from among 20 educators who were named as 2008 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards winners last month.

In the next step of the competition, three teachers will be named the Kentucky High School, Middle School, and Elementary School Teachers of the Year. One finalist will be the overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year and represent the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Karen Gill has been a physics teacher at Henry Clay High School for the past fifteen years. She previously taught at Tates Creek High School. In 2002, she received National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Science Education and in 2004 was named as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

"I take my teaching responsibilities very seriously and I am always trying to improve," she said. "For me this award is a marvelous morale boost and an affirmation that I am on the right track as a teacher. However, there are so many teachers who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty; it is difficult for me to consider anything I do as being truly outstanding."

Beth Randolph is a fourth generation teacher and product of the Fayette County Public Schools. She has been teaching in the district for 21 years. She spent one year at Harrison Elementary and is currently at SCAPA Bluegrass where she teaches math, language arts and social studies. Ms. Randolph has coached the ten-time State Champion SCAPA speech team for the past 13 years.

"I am extremely honored and humbled to represent this county as a 2008 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award recipient, having been taught by its teachers and having worked along side them for so many years," Randolph said.

Crystal Dixon began her career with the district in the transportation department, where she worked in routing while finishing her education. She has been teaching algebra at Morton Middle School for four years.

"This is such a great honor and a blessing to me. I know the state of Kentucky has many awesome educators and I am privileged to be a part of educating our youth," Dixon said. "I try to give 110 percent because this is what I expect from my students. It is an honor to be recognized by my colleagues."

The three were selected for the award in part for their teaching philosophies, experiences, and involvement in the community.