

Karen Gill earns statewide Teacher of the Year honors

Karen Gill, a physics teacher at Henry Clay High School, is the 2009 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

"I hope that I can live up to the responsibility and do well by Kentucky and Fayette County," she said right after the Oct. 22 announcement by Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education.

"Obviously she's a great teacher, but she's also a great person, too. She cares so much about her kids and wants to see everyone succeed. It's a fantastic award for her and for Henry Clay," said Principal John Nochta, who attended the ceremony at the Capitol in Frankfort.

Gill received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal bowl. In addition, KDE will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative for Gill, who will represent Kentucky in the 2009 National Teacher of the Year competition.

Students in Henry Clay's AP physics class offered high praise for their teacher.

"She's very enthusiastic and into what she does," senior Dan Richey said. "In the class, we use a lot of interactive, real-world applications."

Fellow senior Matt Zarth, who is thinking about engineering or pre-med, is also a fan of Gill's. "Her style of teaching fits for me," he said. "You can experience the concepts in action."