

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawkins County Earns Award for Best Employee Appreciation Program

It's a three-peat victory for Hawkins County!! Once again Hawkins County Schools has earned an award from Utrust for having the best Employee Appreciation Program in Tennessee.

Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust Administrator and David Jones, Utrust Board Chairman presented the award to Superintendent Charlotte Britton at the annual Utrust Member Appreciation Dinner in Nashville.

Each of the nineteen schools in Hawkins County participated in the program. Each school honored every school employee on one of eight employee appreciation days celebrated throughout the year.

"We congratulate Hawkins County Schools for the excellent manner in which they honored and celebrated each of their employees throughout the school year," said Tollett. "Each school had a student appreciation team (A-Team) that planned activities to honor school employees and led in the celebrations. Students, staff and sometimes the community joined together to honor and celebrate school employees in a creative and fun way," Tollett continued."

The award included \$200 for the A-Team in each of the nineteen schools to use for appreciation activities. "All of our schools have bought into the program," said Britton in accepting the award. "It has made a significant difference in our students and in staff morale," she continued. "This program has helped to show our staff members how much they are valued and it has helped our students to develop an attitude of gratitude and provided them an opportunity to showcase their skills."

The Utrust staff showed a video they had prepared highlighting activities and events that took place in Hawkins County Schools last year to honor and celebrate employees. Schools in Hawkins County used the themes suggested by Utrust to honor and celebrate employees throughout the year. A 70's theme was used for bus driver appreciation day. A carnival theme was used for food service



appreciation day and a pirate theme for principal appreciation day. Special staff members were honored with a mystery theme and a tropical theme was used to honor administrative and instructional assistants. The last appreciation day of the year honored teachers with a spring fling theme.

For Superintendent Appreciation Day, schools took on a project to make their community a better place to live. Among the projects undertaken by individual schools were a coat drive, a food drive, a book drive, a beautification project and a project to send supplies to a Hawkins County soldier in Afghanistan. Each project was done in honor of Superintendent Charlotte Britton and each had a significant impact.

Feeling appreciated has created a better teaching and learning environment in our schools which is a win for everyone.”

Superintendent Britton expressed her deep appreciation to the school board and believes that their support has been a vital part of Hawkins County’s success. Britton also credits Nedra Jackson, Director of Personnel and system coordinator of the EAP in Hawkins County with their continued distinction. “Nedra does a fantastic job getting information to all the schools and continuously encouraging them so they in turn can carry out appreciation activities for each special day.”

Utrust is a statewide organization which assists boards with employment practices and promotes the Employee Appreciation Program.