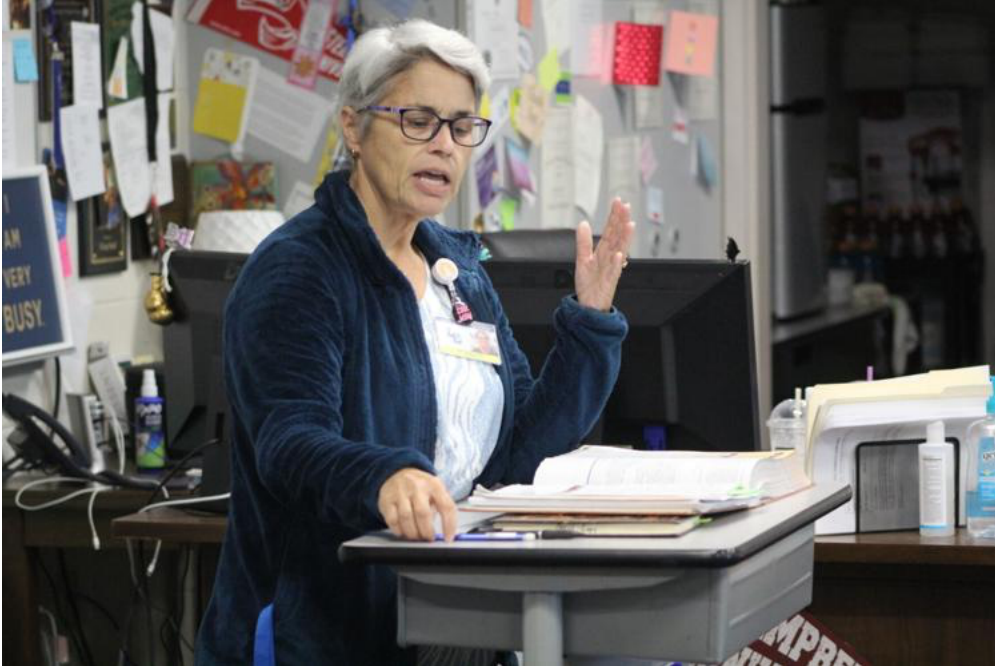


[https://www.thenewsenterprise.com/news/education/larue-educator-to-be-inducted-into-kentucky-teacher-hall-of-fame/article\\_36cdfd20-bcba-5955-9bc7-dab7475f6997.html](https://www.thenewsenterprise.com/news/education/larue-educator-to-be-inducted-into-kentucky-teacher-hall-of-fame/article_36cdfd20-bcba-5955-9bc7-dab7475f6997.html)

## LaRue educator to be inducted into Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame

By MARY ALFORD THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Oct 19, 2022



Katy Cecil, a teacher at LaRue County High School, is joining the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

Photos by MARY ALFORD/The News-Enterprise

### Getting to know Katy Cecil

Getting to know box:

Favorite movie: "The Godfather: Part II"

Favorite color: Purple

Hobbies: Reading, traveling, spending time with husband and children and visiting her nieces and nephews.

Favorite food: Popcorn – but it has to be actually popped on a stove. No microwave popcorn. She also loves cappuccino blasts from Baskin Robbins.

Favorite pleasure read: Mystery novels

Favorite authors: Lee Child, John Sandford, Michael Connelly, Vince Flynn and Janet Evanovich.

LaRue County High School teacher Katy Cecil is getting inducted into the Gov. Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

The 2022 Hall of Fame members, chosen by a statewide selection committee, will be inducted Nov. 4 on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

"It is an incredible honor, naturally," Cecil said. "One of my former students who credits me with having a significant impact on his own life and career reached out to me to let me know he was nominating me.

"I was touched by the sentiment, of course, but I never dreamed I would get it," she added. "I am beyond humbled to be included with such illustrious company."

Cecil is one of three educators to make up the 14th class of inductees. The other two are Addie Henry, who retired from Breathitt County High School in 1996, and the late Wilma Pace, who taught business, English and French during her 29-year career, working at South Marshall High School for a large part of her career before retiring from South Marshall Middle in 1980.

Family: Husband, Eric Cecil, and two daughters, Elena Cecil and Elise Cecil.

“The careers of the people who are already in the Hall of Fame and the two former teachers being inducted this year alongside me have all had profound impacts on their communities,” Cecil said. “That there are former students and administrators of mine who feel the same way about me is very validating.”

Cecil currently teaches public speaking and intro to literature as dual credit courses in partnership with Campbellsville University and English III. She also teaches an online English IV course for BAVEL through Barren County Schools.

She became a teacher in 2001 after working for 10 years in retail management and as a receptionist at a newspaper in Indiana.

“To be honest, after completing my student teaching in 1992, I didn’t really think I wanted to be a teacher. I didn’t have a particularly successful experience, and I honestly thought I would not be any good at it,” Cecil said.

She said many of her current students often are surprised to find out she quit college after that semester and didn’t finish her degree until December 2000.

“It has been quite a journey,” she said.

Cecil came back to Kentucky to teach to fulfill her part of a scholarship she received to go to college right after high school.

“My first year was rough, because it had been 10 years since I had been in a classroom,” she said. “But I was home in LaRue County, had an amazing support system in my mother and my sister, who were also teachers, and an amazing first boss at LaRue County Middle School.

“I often credit him with my decision to stay in teaching even after fulfilling that contract,” she added. “He was so encouraging and supportive. He believed in me even when I didn’t believe in myself.”

This is Cecil’s 22nd year in the classroom. She has spent her entire teaching career in LaRue County Schools. She spent six years at the middle school before transferring to the high school in 2007. She was coaching the middle school speech team and also took over the high school speech program when she transferred.

“Teaching is basically my family business,” she said, noting both of her parents were teachers in LaRue County for more than 30 years. “In fact, I had both of them in class multiple times. I had at least one of my parents in class all four years of high school.”

Cecil’s sister spent her entire teaching career in LaRue County. Like Cecil, her sister started at the middle school and then transferred to the high school to take her father’s place when he retired. Cecil took

her sister's place when she retired.

Cecil has three brothers, and two of them also were career teachers until they retired in the mid-2000s. Her maternal grandmother also was a teacher.

"It seems to be in my blood," she said.

Asked what she enjoys about teaching, Cecil said she loves her subject and the students.

"I love to read great books and share that passion with my students," she said. "I love to see them get into a great book and discover all the wonderful experiences and lessons you can learn from reading a great book. I love language and teaching students how to use it to get messages across and give voice to their thoughts and passions and arguments.

"But mostly, I love the kids," she added. "I love talking to them, listening to their dreams, their thoughts, their frustrations, their questions. I love watching them discover who they are and seeing where their lives will take them. I love helping them along that journey."

Cecil said her ultimate goal as a teacher would be to reach every student — "to make them all feel loved, valued, important, and capable."

---

Mary Alford can be reached at 270-505-1417 or [malford@thenewsenterprise.com](mailto:malford@thenewsenterprise.com).

---

**Mary Alford**