KY Teacher Hall of Fame

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VFTH

For the past seven years, a select few of the state’s top teachers have been inducted into the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

Amy Bingham has highlights from this year’s ceremony in this week’s View from the Hill.

The Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created through a gift by former Governor Louie Nunn. The inaugural class was inducted in 2008 and last week three more distinguished educators were added to the list.

The Purchase area, Northern Kentucky and South Central Kentucky are all represented by the 2014 class of the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

 “Three teachers that embody the best qualities of the profession.”

During a special ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, these teachers were honored for their combined 110 years of experience.

 “It’s a super honor, you just can’t imagine doing what you love and being acknowledged for it, recognized for it. There’s nothing better than that.”

Debbie Burgess is a part-time adjunct Spanish professor at Murray State University. Prior to that, she spent thirty years teaching Spanish at Murray High school.

 “I tell kids everyday there’s no major that’s not strengthened by having a Spanish minor. By being able to speak Spanish or any other language for that matter.”

Cindy Wooden of Florence has been teaching for 33 years with no plans to retire anytime soon.

 “That’s my love of life, just teaching my kids and just seeing that they click and they say oh I’ve done it. That’s what it’s all about.”

The middle school teacher in Kenton county is excited about the Governor’s proposed budget, much like she was inspired by education reform nearly a quarter of a century ago.

 “Suddenly 1990 came and KERA exploded and I was exposed to something new, multi-aging and things like that. It was really neat because it was new to me and I embraced all that.”

Golda Walbert of Glasgow says thanks to her father, she was destined to be a teacher from the day she was born.

 “He kissed me on the forehead and said little girl, daddy will make a teacher out of you if it’s the last thing I do.”

Walbert started out teaching at a one room school house in Rockcastle county at a very young age.

“I got emergency certification at age 18 during the war and taught at Sand Hill School all eight grades.”

Walbert came to the Barren County school system in 1956 and played an instrumental role in the formation of WKU’s Glasgow campus in the mid-1980’s.

The plaques for all seven classes of the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame are housed in Gary Ransdell Hall on WKU’s campus.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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