# 50 Kanawha teachers obtain Literacy Education master's degrees

Staff Reports 20 hrs ago 1 min to read

Kanawha County Schools teachers who were selected for the master's degree program join West Virginia University President Gordon Gee, WVU College of Applied Human Sciences Dean Autumn Cyprès, Kanawha County School Superintendent Dr. Tom Williams, and WVU Director of the School of Education Dr. Nate Sorber at a July 26, 2024, ceremony in Charleston. Photo courtesy Kanawha County Schools

Kanawha County Schools and West Virginia University officials, including WVU President Dr. Gordon Gee, recognized 50 Kanawha County Schools teachers who applied and were selected to receive a master's degree in Literacy Education with a Reading Specialist certification, at a July 26 ceremony in Charleston.

Kanawha County Schools will pay for the teachers' online degree, which also includes their books. According to a KCS release, the endeavor is part of the county school system's commitment to further literacy education and address student learning loss in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cohort of 50 Kanawha County teachers will begin pursuing their degrees in August, with an anticipated program completion in May 2026.

Kanawha County teachers were selected based on an application process that included receiving letters of recommendation from principals or supervisors and writing an essay describing why they wanted to participate in the cohort. Teachers from all grade levels were chosen, with the majority of applicants being from the K-5 grade levels. Special Education teachers are also included in the cohort.

"I am pleased to celebrate the first cohort of the Literacy Education Fellows," Gee said. "This program is a wonderful reminder that we, not just in Kanawha County but across West Virginia, have a high level of interest from teachers who want to be here and want to serve. As the state's flagship, land-grant university, we will continue to nurture, support and provide more opportunities for teachers."

"We are grateful to our partners at West Virginia University for applying the power of its land-grant mission and working with us to deliver this powerful degree to our teachers," Kanawha County Schools Superintendent Tom Williams said at the event. "The average teacher will touch thousands of students' lives in their career, and we see this as an investment not only in our teachers but in our students' literacy achievement levels. Kanawha County already has the most incredible staff, and this opportunity will simply add to the quality of education provided."

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