

Technology Student Association Honors Kentucky Department of Education Employee with 2018 Distinguished Service Award

The national [Technology Student Association](#) has announced the recipient of the 2018 TSA Distinguished Service Award, which is presented to an individual who has provided valued service and contributed to the continued growth and success of TSA.

The recipient of the 2018 TSA Distinguished Service Award is [Mr. Mark Harrell](#), engineering program consultant and director of [Kentucky TSA \(KYTSA\)](#), where membership has soared from 1,000 to 3,000 students—and state conference attendance has jumped 150 percent—in only two years since Mr. Harrell began in the TSA state advisor role. The Frankfort resident serves in the Office of Career and Technical Education in the Kentucky Department of Education’s Division of College and Career Readiness.

Kentucky TSA’s resurgence is featured in a [new series](#) on the national TSA website. “KY TSA is growing leaders ready for the high-skilled, high-wage STEM careers in Kentucky, but more importantly, we are growing digital citizens ready to make our commonwealth a better place for all of us,” says Mr. Harrell.

Kentucky TSA’s achievements include the: revitalization of its website, social media, and state officer team; hosting of its first Fall Leadership Conference in a decade; realignment of regional leadership; and the initiation of a brand new smart phone app and webinars.

Mr. Harrell will receive the award at the [2018 National TSA Conference](#), scheduled from June 22 to 26 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. National TSA is marking 40 years of enhancing personal development, leadership, and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through intracurricular activities, competitions, and other programs. More than 250,000 TSA student members in middle and high schools across the United States are “learning to lead in a technical world.”

Mr. Harrell earned his bachelor’s degree in technology education from Purdue University and his master’s degree in technical education administration from Eastern Kentucky University. He taught at Bryan Station High School in Lexington and the Franklin County Career and Technical Center in Frankfort, then served as director of school engagement for Project Lead The Way’s K–12 curriculum in Kentucky and Tennessee, before moving into his current role.