

Paintsville Independent Schools

In Search of Excellence



Paintsville Independent Schools Shines During the FIRE Summit

Over 14,000 people participated in the Forging Innovation in Rural Education (FIRE) summit hosted by the 22 school districts of the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) in Pikeville on April 11. Over 1,300 persons attended the multi-district K-12 educational professional learning event while more than 13,000 viewers, from 12 countries and 42 states, tuned in to the live stream and engaged with presenter content on The Holler.

More than 160 teachers and students from 22 school district teams presented at the Summit sponsored by KVEC as part of the Race to the Top “Appalachian Renaissance Initiative (ARI).” Paintsville Independent Schools received the greatest number of grants among school districts, while Paintsville Elementary received the most for any one school. Paintsville Independent received \$18,000 in grant funds to use toward projects at Paintsville Elementary School and Paintsville High School.



PHS

Paintsville High School Student Senate Member Taylor Stumbo opens the ARI FIRE Summit



Paintsville Art Students Morgan Slone & Kristen Thompson

Paintsville Elementary School



Teacher Frankie Puckett Presenting her Learning Innovation Grant

Teachers shared the innovations used in their classrooms for their students using the “innovation grants” awarded through the ARI. Demonstrations included drone design and build, robotics, aviation, tele-medicine, advanced manufacturing, student publishing, and much more.

This year’s summit also featured a “Summit within a Summit.” This powerful health and wellness conference within the Summit included “Health-A-Lacha” in which teams of students developed strategies to overcome this growing crisis in our region and our country. We are proud to announce the P.U.R.EKY team from Paintsville High School was awarded \$1,000 to implement their plan to curb opioid addiction.

The summit has grown into an international conference with viewing from around the world viewing the presentations and activities. The countries included Canada, France, United Kingdom, China, Germany Saudi Arabia, Spain, and Peru.

The event streamed LIVE on The Holler from 10 locations across the East Kentucky EXPO Center and featured educators showcasing their upcoming projects in one of 32 breakout sessions over the course of the day. The FIRE summit sessions have been archived and are available at www.theholler.org.

The Paintsville Independent School District teachers presenting and their grant awards were: Tiffany Austin, Amanda Baker, Georgia Baldwin, Misty Barker, Pamela Blankenship, Laura Carroll, Sandra Coleman, Jessica Davis, Hans Doderer, Desiree Harmon, Charlene Martin, Melinda Music, Frankie Puckett, Michelle Stambaugh, Cindy Tackett, Stephanie Tiller and Cathy Wright.

Paintsville Student Senate members Wayne Hammonds and Taylor Stumbo helped lead and facilitate sessions throughout the day.

For more information visit www.theholler.org to view the archived sessions.

