



May 28, 2015

FAC Spotlight:
KY Education Savings Plan Trust
Contest Winners Announced
Students share great insight about the world around them & how they'd change it

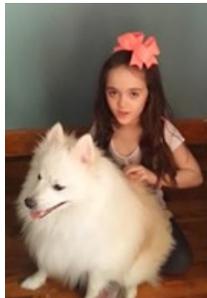
The families of six Kentucky students have won \$1,500 college savings accounts with the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT) through the 2015 KESPT Dream Out Loud Challenge.

The Challenge invited students in grades K-6 to submit an original poem, drawing, video or essay answering the question, "How will I change the world after college?" Each winner's school will also receive \$500.

More than 1,400 students from across Kentucky participated in the Dream Out Loud Challenge for a chance to win a KESPT college savings account. KESPT is Kentucky's official state-sponsored 529 college savings plan, which was established in 1988 and is administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The 2015 Dream Out Loud winners are:

- **Lillian Norman, a first-grader at Jesse Stuart Elementary, Madisonville**, submitted a video with her dog that recently died of cancer. She said animals are important to society and help people who are sick or disabled. They can also teach kids responsibility and discipline. Lillian said that maybe she can find a cure for animal cancer that can lead to a cure for human cancer. She'd change the world "one animal at a time."



- **Henry Haag, a first-grader at Robertson County School, Mount Olivet**, wrote an essay about how he'd change the world by inventing machines that make more fuel and energy. He likes to collect old tools and pieces of wood and metal to build things. He draws pictures of his inventions, trying to figure how to make them work. He wants to go to college to find out the best way to build inventions.



- **Jacob Julian, a third-grader at Clark Elementary, Paducah**, submitted a video about going to college to be a construction worker. He'd like to build houses for the poor or homeless. "When I just see people who don't have homes, they just make me sad. So, I'm going to end that."

- **Anna Curry, a third-grader at Sandersville Elementary, Lexington**, submitted an essay on how she'd like to end bullying. She'd make sure kids know how to handle their feelings in a healthy way and work with schools to end bullying. "I have been bullied, and it was scary."

- **Rasia Graves, a fifth-grader at Rineyville Elementary, Rineyville**, submitted a video about becoming a neurologist to change the world. Her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2010 and Rasia then knew she wanted to go into the medical field. She wants to help MS patients until there is a cure.

- **Jaleah Halcomb, a sixth-grader at Oakland Elementary, Bowling Green**, wrote an essay on the meaning of music. She wants to change the world by being a singer/songwriter. It seems simple, but she says "it's so much more.



The world is big, different, and it has hopes and dreams...but people don't know it's full of music." She's had a tough life, but made "phenomenal achievements." With a simple song she can allow her heart to speak and making people understand they are not alone.

The Dream Out Loud contest challenged students to imagine how a college education would help them change the world and encouraged families to start thinking about saving for college. Children who entered the contest wanted to change the world as doctors, veterinarians, teachers, farmers, architects, engineers and more.

"Dream Out Loud reaches children across the state and gets them excited about their future and how education will play an important role," said David Lawhorn, KESPT program administrator. "It also reminds parents and grandparents that it is never too early to start saving for college."

A panel of local business executives, writers and education professionals served as judges for the Dream Out Loud entries. Winning submissions are displayed at kysaves.com.

[Click here to check out the award-winning videos and essays](#)

KESPT helps parents, other relatives and friends save for college expenses with tax benefits. A KESPT account can be started with as little as \$25 and can be used at any qualified institution in the nation. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., is the plan manager. For more information on KESPT and the Plan Disclosure Booklet, visit kysaves.com or call toll-free 1-877-598-7878.

Donna Duncan, Head of the Office of Policy & Audit, Tapped to Lead Finance Cabinet's KECC Efforts



Donna Duncan joined the Finance Cabinet in September of last year to be the executive director of the Office of Policy and Audit. In that short time she has already been involved in several key audits throughout state government and will now turn some of her attention to spearheading the Finance Cabinet's KECC efforts.

"I am honored to serve as the FAC's lead coordinator for KECC this year. Our employees prove with each campaign that they have heart and compassion for their fellow Kentuckians. Whether it is helping children, the elderly, the homeless or the hungry, we all stand to gain when we offer a hand up to those in need."

Prior to joining FAC in September, 2014, Donna worked at Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Cabinet for Economic Development. She also worked for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which is an independent bureau of the US Dept. of Treasury.

The official KECC kickoff is August 11. If you would like to assist in KECC efforts for your department or agency, please contact Donna at donnae.duncan@ky.gov.

Summer Vacation Ideas: Caving Adventures Await at Carter Caves State Park

There's plenty of summer fun underground at Carter Caves State Resort Park with a walking or crawling cave tour. The park near Olive Hill offers daily cave tours. More tour times will be added starting June 13. Some of the tour highlights include:

Cascade Cave: Cascade Cave is one of the largest of over 200 caves in Carter County and is noted for its large chambers and numerous cave formations. Highlights include the reflecting pool in the Lake Room, the unique cave formations in the Cathedral Room and an underground waterfall over 30 feet high.

X-Cave: Some of the highlighted features include turkey rock, the pipe organ, and the giant column which is the largest cave formation found at the park. Be aware of your surroundings and you will discover how this cave became known as "X-Cave."

Saltpetre Cave: Saltpetre Cave is considered to be the site of the earliest industry in the area. The cave was used during the War of 1812 as a source of the major ingredient in making gunpowder and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Lantern tours are also offered throughout the summer.

Feeling adventurous? Check these tours out!

Saltpetre Kids Crawl: The Saltpetre Kid's Crawl is a great way to



A crawling tour of Saltpetre Cave

PERSONNEL MOVES

Liz Rodgers has been appointed director for Information Technology Service Management in the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT). She has been manager of the Commonwealth Service Desk for the past year, working to streamline and simplify processes, with a constant focus on COT customers. In her new role she will be sharing her expertise, support and guidance to the Change Management, Business Relationship Management and Asset Management branches and continuing her guidance of the Service Desk.

Liz is a UK graduate with a bachelor's degree in Telecommunications. She started in state with the Workforce Development Cabinet. She was WDC's Network & Server Support Branch manager before being detailed to COT as part of the I.3 Initiative and assuming the role of customer services branch manager.

Greg Thomas has accepted the manager position for COT's Business Relationship Management Branch. Greg began his career with state government in 2001. He has been a project manager, acting branch manager and served in a wide variety of other positions since joining state government. He has provided support and worked with many state agencies including Transportation, Homeland Security, in addition to leading multiple projects for the improvement of the County and Circuit Clerk offices across the state.

Check out details: <http://parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/carter-caves/default.aspx>

introduce children to the adventurous sport of caving. They'll be crawling on hands and knees in small dark passages that will be lit by only the flashlight provided. They'll get dirty as the passages are rocky and dusty.

Bat Cave Walking Tour: Bat Cave is the longest cave found within the park. The Bat Cave Walking Tour is a wild cave, so the trip is considered rugged and strenuous. The cave is undeveloped, it is not electrically lit and there are no handrails or steps. Plan to get wet and muddy on this tour. You **must** pass a squeeze test before you purchase your tickets.

Bat Cave Crawling Tour: The Bat Cave Crawling Tour is considered the most strenuous and most adventurous tour offered at Carter Caves. You'll be crawling and walking through muddy and wet passages.

Saltpetre Crawling Tour: You will be crawling on your hands and knees and even doing some belly crawls during this tour. The cave is cold, rocky and dusty. This is considered a strenuous and rugged caving trip and may not be a good choice for some folks. You **must** pass a squeeze test before you purchase your tickets.

Besides the cave tours, Carter Caves offers canoe trips, hiking, golf, swimming, gem mining for kids, mini-golf, and fishing. Carter Caves also has a lodge, cottages and restaurant.