(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) Bebe Smith, school office administrator at Beechwood High School, is the 2020 recipient of the KASA Office Professional Award, a statewide recognition. She was presented the award today at 9:30 a.m. via a virtual ceremony.

The award is presented annually to a school or district office professional who contributes significantly to the efforts of the leadership team; who is the pulse of the office; and exhibits resourcefulness, commitment, professionalism, and a positive attitude. The KASA Office Professional award is highly prized among school staff statewide.

For over 20 years, Bebe Smith has served as the pulse of the office at Beechwood High School. She is described as having impeccable character and an attitude that is an inspiration for all. With a “do whatever it takes” attitude, she goes above and beyond to communicate efficiently and effectively so that others walk away feeling better than they did before speaking with her. She keeps up with countless interactions and does it all with a smile and problem-solving approach.

Smith genuinely loves Beechwood, education and kids! She cares deeply about everyone she interacts with and goes outside of her role to enrich lives. Whether she is reading with a student, helping with homework, ensuring a student has lunch, listening to a student’s worries, sending a card, giving hugs, cleaning to prevent illness, helping a student get home safely, sending a child well-wishes while in the hospital, being a child’s mentor, or baking cookies for someone’s birthday, she always shows she cares and exudes love. She serves with an unmatched energy and passion, providing expertise and talent to handle any situation.

“Mrs. Smith can immediately make a stranger feel at home, a lifelong resident feel at ease, and any student feel like they have a family member in the building,” said Beechwood High School Principal Justin Kaiser. “She treats every child as though he or she is her own grandchild. She has the perfect balance of love and guidance. In short, Bebe is Beechwood’s grandmother.”

The award is presented in conjunction with National Administrative Professional’s Day each April. Smith was chosen for the statewide honor by a panel of school administrators who work with office professionals every day. She will receive a $500 monetary gift and a cherry clock with intricate gears that are indicative of her critical role in keeping the leadership team and school running smoothly.

“It is indeed an honor for us to recognize Bebe for this well-deserved recognition,” Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, executive director of KASA, said. “Her support, organization, collaboration, and mastery help strengthen the school’s positive culture and keep everyone pointed toward student achievement.”

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky’s school administrators.

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