

Kentucky Board of Education

Terry Holliday is Kentucky's fifth commissioner of education. He came to Kentucky in August 2009 from Statesville, North Carolina, where he served as superintendent of the Iredell-Statesville school district since 2002. During his tenure in North Carolina, he received recognition in a variety of areas, including being named 2009 North Carolina Superintendent of the Year; receiving the 2009 Grayson Medal for Innovation in Quality from the American Productivity Quality Council; being named the 2008 North Carolina Music Educators Association Superintendent of the Year; and selection as a 2008 Friend of NCAAPERD, a physical education and health award. Under his leadership, the Iredell-Statesville school district received the 2008 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which was created by an act of Congress in 1987 to recognize companies, organizations, businesses, and other entities that have shown long-term improvement in quality and productivity. Dr. Holliday's work as a school administrator led to the closing of achievement gaps and marked improvement in graduation rates and other student achievement measures. Dr. Holliday's other previous experience includes superintendent of the Transylvania County school system in Brevard, North Carolina; associate superintendent and director of accountability for Rock Hill School District 3 in York County, South Carolina; principal, assistant principal, and director of instrumental music for Fort Mill High School in Fort Mill, South Carolina; and band director at Northside Junior High, Parker High, and Gaffney High in South Carolina. He earned a bachelor's degree from Furman University, a master's degree and doctorate from Winthrop University, and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina. He serves on the Council on Postsecondary Education as an ex-officio nonvoting member and on the Education Professional Standards Board as an ex-officio voting member.

Joe Brothers, of Elizabethtown, is the board chair and is retired from the Gates Corporation's Elizabethtown plant where he served as plant manager. He is a graduate of Community High School in Unionville, Tennessee, and the University of Alabama (engineering) in Huntsville. He is a past PTA president and school board member and has served as an officer with the Kentucky School Boards Association, Polyurethane Manufacturers Association, and the National Management Association. He has been active in a number of church activities with the Church of Christ, including radio broadcasting and starting congregations in the Ukraine.

C.B. Akins, Sr., one of the board's two vice chairs, was born in Tennessee and raised in southern Illinois. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an interpreter and an instructor and has studied eight languages. Dr. Akins received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Lexington Theological Seminary. He is author of *From Burden to Blessings* and has served as senior pastor of First Baptist Church Bracktown in Lexington since 1983. He serves on the Midway College board of trustees, board of directors of Commerce Lexington, Fayette Education Foundation, First Bracktown, Inc., and as the chair of the trustees at Simmons College of Kentucky.

Dorie Combs, also a board vice chair, is a professor in the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University where she is the chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in middle grades curriculum and reading/language arts. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary English education from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Combs has 15 years of teaching experience at the middle school level in South Carolina and in Lexington, Kentucky. She currently serves as the chair of the National Middle School Association's Professional Preparation Advisory Board.

Katheryn R. Baird, of Pikeville, graduated from Union College with a bachelor's degree in English and has a bachelor's in elementary education from Pikeville College. She has taught kindergarten and first grade. She was named to the Union College Hall of Fame of Educators, has served as a member of the Pikeville Independent Board of Education and the Model City Day Care Board, is an elder in the Pikeville Presbyterian Church, and presently serves on the Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky Board and the education committee of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce.

Jeanne H. Ferguson, of Louisville, is an adjunct professor at Jefferson Community and Technical College, from which she retired as a full professor. She began her college teaching career at the University of Kentucky. She served as the coordinator of the Speech Communication Program at Jefferson Community and Technical College and coauthored a text entitled *You're Speaking, Who's Listening*. Ms. Ferguson has taught courses at Bellarmine University and Spalding University. She serves on the boards of STAR (Systematic Treatment for Autistic Related Disorders) and the Association of the Louisville Orchestra. She has a bachelor's degree from Ursuline College and a master's in communication from the University of Kentucky.

Judith H. Gibbons, of Lakeside Park, is a retired vice president of a professional career management firm. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and has been long involved in education initiatives. As a community volunteer, she has promoted education excellence and stronger collaboration between the business and education communities. Ms. Gibbons serves on the Northern Kentucky University Foundation, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Education Alliance and Education Policy committees, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Vision 2015 Education Implementation Team, and is a graduate of Leadership Northern Kentucky.

Billy Harper, of Paducah, is a graduate of Heath High School and the University of Kentucky with a degree in engineering. He serves as president of Harper Industries, Inc., a construction holding company consisting of nine construction related subsidiaries with offices in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. He serves on the University of Kentucky Mechanical Engineering Advisory Council and helped establish the Paducah Campus Engineering Program. Mr. Harper has served on state and national boards for the Council of Economic Education, the Governor's Scholars Program, and the McCracken County Board of Education. He also is a

professional race car driver competing on the ADRL, IHRA, and NHRA circuits.

John Douglas Hubbard is an attorney in Bardstown. He has a lifelong connection with Bardstown High School as a student, parent, sports volunteer, and member of the Bardstown Foundation for Excellence in Education. He has participated in numerous civic activities. He was named Nelson County's Outstanding Young Man in 1968, inducted into the Bardstown/Nelson County Hall of Fame in 2004, and inducted into the Bardstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. He holds a bachelor's degree in commerce and a juris doctor degree from the University of Kentucky.

David Karem, of Louisville, is president of the Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning and a juris doctor degree from the University of Louisville. For 33 years he served in the Kentucky General Assembly and for 20 plus years on the Southern Regional Education Board (committee chair and treasurer). He serves on the boards of Spalding University, Louisville Fund for the Arts, and Louisville Main Street Association and also chairs the Louisville Science Center's Educational Advisory Board.

Austin Moss is vice president of Human Resources at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville. He is responsible for the delivery of all human resource services for this 830-employee acute care medical center. He has more than 30 years of U.S. and international human resources experience in union and non-union environments. He has been a small business owner, substitute teacher, local school board member, and member of the Kentucky School Boards Association, as well as having served on numerous community and business leadership boards. He is a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

Brigitte Ramsey, of Pendleton County, holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Kentucky and undergraduate degrees in economics and international studies from Northern Kentucky University. For the past ten years, she served as a Pendleton County Board of Education member where she maintained a strong focus on individual academic achievement and establishing educational leadership. She has worked in various research capacities for Northern Kentucky University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, and the University of Cincinnati. Currently, she is working as a tax analyst for Kentucky Youth Advocates.