

HC*EXCELL E-NEWS

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Hamblen County District Teachers of the Year (TOY) are recognized for their dedication and excellence through HC*EXCELL awards of \$500. The 2009 recipients are **Debra Cruvey, kindergarten teacher, Witt Elementary, PreK-4; Autumn Jennings, English Language Learning teacher, Meadowview Middle School, 5-8; and AP Freshman Science teacher, Robert Gant of MH East High School, 9-12.** District Teachers of the Year are selected for their instructional excellence and achievement. **The Hamblen County Imagination Library (IML)** program continues to grow and thrive through increased contributions to HC*EXCELL. The IML program provides free, high-quality, age-appropriate, hard-cover books to birth to five year old children monthly. HC*EXCELL raises the money and facilitates the program with partners Kiwanis Club of Morristown, Walter State Community College, M-H Library, Hamblen County School System and the U.S. Postal Services. Since December 2004 16,077 books at a Hamblen County cost of \$18,500 have been distributed.

- **Morristown City Council contributed \$10,000 to HC*EXCELL for the Imagination Library books; Charter Communication hosts a family literacy program, "Ms. Eva the Reading Engineer daily on channel 4 at 9:20a.m.on.**
- **Morristown City Council and the Hamblen County Board of Commissioners proclaimed September 14-20 IML week;**
- **52 local leaders read books in Hamblen County Elementary schools**
- **HC*EXCELL, Kiwanis Club of Morristown, Ladies Reading Circle, Somo Sala Circle, Morristown Rotary A.M., First Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, Lakeway Reading Council, Delta Kappa Gamma, Citizen Tribune, Hayter Printer, and WCRK/WMTN Radio sponsored an Imaginary Breakfast and raised funds for the Hamblen County IML program.**
- **Major Sponsors for 2008-2009: Tuff Torq Corporation \$30,000; Jefferson Federal Charitable Foundation \$15,000; Don Rogers \$15,000; Morristown City Council \$10,000; Alcoa Foundation, 10,000; and Colgate Palmolive, \$10,000.**

National Board Professional Teacher certification grants and stipends are provided by HC*EXCELL to encourage higher quality teaching. Congratulations to Christy Walker of Alpha Elementary Hamblen County's newest NBPTS teacher.

Hamblen County P-16 Council 2009 Program of Work for 2009 is become a strategic partner of the Morristown-Hamblen County Community Profile Initiative. The initiative's purpose is to create a portrait of current demographic and socio-economic conditions, set goals and benchmarks, and make recommendations for building a strategic plan to ensure the continued and future economic success of Morristown and Hamblen County. To date the Council and its members have:

- Taken Initiative leadership roles
- Contributed financially to the process
- Co-hosted an eight county Economic Education Summit

Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership Fellowship

- **High School Leadership** provides support for accredited teen leadership classes that include public speaking, project organization and implementation, team building, leadership skills and service learning.
- **Capturing Kids Hearts Training**, a 3-day management training program arranged for Morristown East and West High Freshman Academy teachers by HC*EXCELL through monies provided by Tuff Torq Corporation. The course was attended by 52 Hamblen County teachers, guidance counselors and administrators. Principals from both High Schools attributed increased freshman student and teacher attendance, reduced freshman disciplinary actions and an increase in freshman student and teacher morale to the training.

Positive Youth Development Initiative (PYDI)

In 2009 through a Public Education Network (PEN) grant HC*EXCELL conducted a statewide survey of Tennessee stakeholders to explore priority issues that affect student health, learning and behavior. You can view the results of this survey at www.hcexcell.org under News & Events.

Junior Achievement (JA)

Thanks to Don Rogers, HC*EXCELL and the Hamblen County School System are piloting an expansion of Junior Achievement in three Hamblen County schools. The pilot program's objective is to provide future employees with basic business skill knowledge and increase student academic performance.

NEXT STEPS

- Morristown-Hamblen County Community Profile
- PYDI City/County Youth Council Initiative

Dates to Remember

2009 Imagination Library Week
2009 Give Kids Good Schools Week