

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Locals Earn Advanced Technical Certification

Louisville, KY – The following select group of thirty-seven Kentucky educators completed training and achieved their advanced designation as Apple Certified Systems Administrators (ACSA): Lennie Oxyer and John Leistner, Ashland Independent; Jason Morrison, Fairview Independent; Russ Cole, Russell Independent; Tommy Burns, Lawrence County; Dr. Michael Kessinger and Mike Muncy, Martin County; Mark Woods, Pineville Independent; Jack Welch and Bill Jackson, Middlesboro Independent; Dewayne Jackson and Rick Huffman, Bell County; David Blair and Greg Payne, Hancock County; Jason Grace, Ohio County; Jarrett More, Muhlenberg County; Brandon Blackburn and Neil Arnett, Pikeville Independent; Douglas Bowling, Harlan County; Charles Morton, Harlan Independent; Parker Smith, Clay County; Joshua Collins and Jeff Coots, Jackson Independent; Ben Grainger and Don Winters, Crittenden County; Jeremy Chaffin, Randy Smith and Chris Shepherd, Floyd County; Damian Johnson, Jenkins Independent; Coy Fields, Knott County; John Profitt, Lee County; Gary Evans, Owsley County; Jill Roaden, Kevin Anderson and Sam Williams, Whitley County; Kelly Vice, Menifee County.

This designation is earned by individuals that demonstrate a high level of knowledge and ability to support Apple computers by completing nearly five weeks of training and passing a series of exams. The training program is offered through Dataseam, which donates computers to local schools. In addition to everyday classroom work, computers are also used by researchers at UofL's James Graham Brown Cancer Center to help find potential life saving drugs that fight deadly cancers.

"The Dataseam initiative is transforming the way our teachers teach and our children learn," said House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins, (D-Sandy Hook). "The collaborative effort behind Dataseam – local schools, universities, cancer research – all made possible by coal severance funds is unique to Kentucky's economic development efforts. I congratulate these technicians, who are the largest certified collective nationally, supporting the teachers and students statewide in an ground-breaking effort that is redefining education, research, and workforce development in a 21st Century Commonwealth."

"This helps the districts take advantage of the latest and greatest technology for their students," said Dataseam's Chief Executive Officer, Brian Gupton. The combined school districts have installed nearly 10,000 computers as part of the Dataseam program. The computers not only support basic writing and Internet activities in the classroom, but schools can use wikis, blogs, remote monitoring and even video conferencing to help teachers enhance classroom learning.

“People in these 24 school districts should be very proud of this personal accomplishment,” said Brian Gupton. “Not only does this help teachers and students, but it is a great example of how Kentucky is developing a high-tech workforce reflective of opportunities in a 21st century workplace.”

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