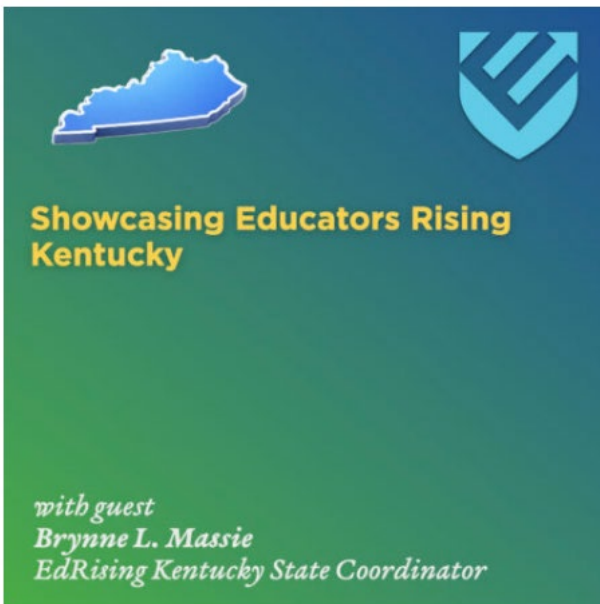




Winter 2026

## Educators Rising Kentucky Selected for National Webinar Feature



### **KY Educators Rising Vision:**

To eliminate the teacher shortage by reimagining educator pathways.

### **KY Educators Rising Mission:**

To inspire and grow current and rising educators to become community leaders and advocates for high-

Join our Educators Rising national webinar to celebrate Educators Rising Kentucky's achievements and spotlights. Discover innovative programs like TRACK Apprenticeships, Grow Your Own (GYO) Specialized Learning and the power of Kentucky's unique "5th C": Community – where student voice, authentic experiences and strong partnerships make all the difference.

Learn how chapters build camaraderie, recognize achievements and leverage partnerships with organizations like Lakeshore Learning and Junior Achievement to amplify impact. Whether you're a teacher, student or administrator, this is your chance to see innovation, inspiration and leadership come together. Register now and witness the energy, ideas and community driving Kentucky Educators Rising!

**SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, March 26**

[Register for the Educators Rising National webinar](#) showcasing Educators Rising Kentucky!

## Educators Rising State Conference Set for March 5 at the Kentucky Exposition Center

**Final call for judges!**



Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2026 Educators Rising State Conference! We're kicking things off with a high-energy opening session complete with a lip-sync community-building opening video, a "Teacher Leader Red Carpet Walk," Hollywood trivia, Educators Rising student officer inspiring speeches,

quality education.

### Grow Your Own (GYO) Greats: The GYO Winter Spotlight Shines Brightly on Rowan County Schools



Our winter bulletin's Grow Your Own Spotlight features Lindsay Johnson, an English and Teaching and Learning instructor at Rowan County Senior High School.

Morehead, Ky., has always been home for Johnson, so returning there to build her teaching career felt like a natural choice.

"My great-grandmother graduated from Morehead State when it was still Morehead Normal School and taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Rowan County," Johnson said. "I even named my daughter after Cora Wilson Stewart, who founded the Moonlight Schools.

"I want to empower my students (and *all* people) to have the opportunity to live out their dreams. For some, their dreams will take them to exciting new places. For others, their dreams are

and an uplifting keynote. from Roger Cleveland

The breakout sessions are packed with a range of topics, from differing AI perspectives and AI tools and ethics to the Kentucky United We Learn movement, museum-space design and a student-led inaugural delegation meeting.

The closing Session will feature Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher, First Lady Brittainy Beshear, Senior Advisor Rocky Adkins and the 2026 Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year, Kara Dowdy. It's going to be a day full of professional growth, networking and celebration. We can't wait to see your chapters there!

We are still seeking judges for our event – bilingual Spanish speakers are especially welcome! Please [register to serve as an Educators Rising Kentucky judge](#) online.

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month Starts Here: Leadership, Learning and Educators Rising



The Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education hosted CTE Student Leadership Day at the Capitol Annex on Feb. 10. Educators Rising state officers represented the field of education and spent the day meeting with state representatives and legislators.

rooted in the towns and communities they already call home. Personally, I belong in that second group. I am deeply rooted in Morehead and Rowan County, both personally and professionally. I fell in love with teaching because of the incredible teachers that I had as a student in Rowan County, and I am honored to work towards carrying on that tradition."

Morehead is fortunate to have Johnson, and her story is a proud example of a strong Grow Your Own community.



### 2025-2026 Educators Rising State Officers

**President:**

Hunter Carr, Region 1

**President-Elect:**

Lily Russell, Region 6

**Director of**

**Communications:**

Haley Chowning, Region 3

**Director of**

Throughout the event, officers engaged in meaningful conversations about CTE funding and the importance of supporting career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) such as Educators Rising. These organizations greatly enhance students' school experiences by providing leadership opportunities, amplifying student voice and creating valuable pathways for future careers.

The student officers were grateful for the opportunity to grow as leaders and to represent Educators Rising at the state level. They enjoyed connecting with other CTSOs and look forward to the day in 2027!



## Educators Rising KY State Conference Will Host Inaugural Student Delegation Meeting

Educators Rising Kentucky will host its first Student Delegation Meeting, creating a dedicated space for student voices to be heard and elevated. This meeting will be facilitated by our student officers and will invite student leaders to share ideas for conference themes, service projects, session proposals and more.

The Student Delegation is made up of one representative from each Educators Rising Kentucky chapter. These students were selected because they are strong, passionate advocates for the education profession.

Congratulations to our 2025–2026 Educators Rising

### Communications:

Kelly Esquivel Hernandez,  
Region 3

### Director of Membership:

Alyssa Pollard, Region 3

### Director of Outreach & Service:

Nia Serikali, Region 3

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## Become a Student Officer with Educators Rising Kentucky: Applications Close Feb. 24

Please take a moment to share this information with your students who may be interested in leadership opportunities through Educators Rising.

KDE's [GoTeachKY.com](https://www.kde.net/GoTeachKY.com) website has been updated with the flyer, important dates and detailed descriptions of student officer roles. Whether you're traveling to conferences or to classrooms, seek those natural leaders who could represent Kentucky at the officer level.

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### Contact

[Bree Massie](#), Education  
Program Consultant

(502) 892-6231, ext. 4548

Access our [Teaching and Learning KY Teacher Leaders Request Form](#)

### Resources

- [Educators Rising/ Teaching and Learning Dates to Know 2025-2026](#)

## State Conference Student Delegates!

This year's student delegates are: David Abebrese, Alexis Baker, Zowiee Bishop, Abigail Bizzell, Jonas Blakeman, Lena Brown, Arielle Burton, Hayden Byrd, Hunter Carr, Haley Chowning, Asher Dailey, Taylor Davis, Maggie Dawson, Alyssa Dilbeck, Brooke Eadens, Kaylee Gamble, Emma-Marie Glockler, Emma Groh, Jaelle Hall, Leah Hopper, Della Hudson, Grace Imboneyase, Brittany Johns, Quani'e Lanier, Emily Leonard, Emeri Lewis, Camila Martinez Armenta, Alden Mbanfu, Brooklynn Melton, Natalie Mettling, Ally Nickrent, Leah Riggs, Aliyah Robinson, Shyann Sanner, Carolyn Scott, Emily Shearer, Olivia Stone, Abigail Strain, Mary Beth Talbert, Caroline Tompkins, Frankie Vowell, and ANiyah Wilford.

## Educators Rising National Conference Opens Call for Sessions



Be a part of shaping the future of education at Educators Rising's premier national event!

We are looking for educational leaders to present breakout sessions for more than 3,800 rising educators, teacher leaders and professional educators from across the country.

[Learn more about being a national conference session presenter and how you can apply.](#)

- [Monthly meeting summaries and recordings](#)
- [Kentucky Teacher Leaders Google Drive Folder](#)
- [Educators Rising Curriculum Implementation](#)

## Looking Ahead

- **Reminder:** Sign up your students for National Membership so they can participate in Educators Rising activities for the remainder of the year. The membership registration deadline has been extended to **Feb. 28**, and the final payment deadline is **Feb. 15**.
- The state conference is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ET on March 5. Registration opens at 8 a.m. ET.



## Connect with Educators Rising Kentucky

Please follow us on social media to support growing our Educators Rising Kentucky community of rising professionals!

**Connect with Educators**

## Rising

[Instagram \(National\)](#)

[Instagram \(KY\)](#)

[Facebook \(National\)](#)

[Facebook \(KY\)](#)

[LinkedIn \(National\)](#)

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[Educators Rising Teacher  
Leader Facebook Group](#)



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