

2025 Dr. David L. Fields Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Danville Public School Foundation is proud to sponsor the **Dr. David L. Fields Excellence in Teaching Awards**. Established in 2001 and named in honor of former District 118 Superintendent Dr. David L. Fields, these awards are bestowed annually to outstanding teachers from the primary, middle school and high school levels. Teachers receiving this award represent the finest in teaching, demonstrating a continuing dedication to their profession and to their students. The 2025 recipients are:

Carrie Waterman

“Carrie embodies everything this award stands for in the form of dedication, excellence, and an endless commitment to students. Throughout her career, she has been a guiding light at Edison Elementary and a shining example of what an outstanding educator can and should be. I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate. Carrie has devoted 31 years to District 118. She has spent the entirety of this time giving her all to the students and staff of Edison Elementary”

- Kristin Shanks, Principal Edison Elementary

Jennifer Rambole

“Mrs. Rambole has been a teacher at Kenneth D. Bailey Academy since 2013. She is a well respected leader amongst her peers and a true advocate for her students. Her classes are typically amongst the top credit earners in the building, as she makes intentional efforts to keep her students on task. She is flexible and responsive to her students’ academic needs, as she regularly tailors the courses she teaches. She played a pivotal role in bringing dual enrollment courses to KDBA, as well as designing and piloting new curriculum that will benefit upcoming classes of students in the alternative learning environment.”

-Mitzi Campbell, Principal Kenneth D. Bailey Academy

Bethany Free

“Mrs. Free has worked for District 118 since 2012 beginning her career at North Ridge Middle School and then began teaching math at DHS in 2016. Mrs. Free teaches some of Danville High School most vulnerable learners in Algebra and Transitional Algebra. Her lessons keep students active and engaged and she provides effective feedback to her students. As a result, 94.5% of her students met their growth targets this year. Bethany actively contributes strategies and ideas for instructional improvement with Algebra PLC. Her steady presence and guidance have been an invaluable support.”

- Jacob Bretz, Principal, Danville High School

