

The Kansas Learning First Alliance (KLFA) held the final meeting of the academic year on April 8, 2021 at 4:00PM via Zoom. Laurie Curtis, KLFA Chair, welcomed attendees in support of strong public education in our state.



Members shared how their organization or community promoted **Public Schools Week February 22-26**. Many organizations utilized the social media tools provided by the Learning First Alliance, our national affiliation.

Mrs. Tabatha Rosproy: National Teacher of the Year

Membership was honored to have the National Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Tabatha Rosproy, as our keynote. She shared the experience of her term and highlighted what she had been able to accomplish during this challenging and unique academic year. Much of her advocacy work was done virtually and her experience will extend a while longer to allow her to complete some experiences and opportunities missed due to the pandemic. She shared that she felt staying positive during these challenges is a choice that she worked to bring a positive voice during this difficult season for educators. She appreciated meeting new people and sharing information with many during her term. For a recording of the meeting, including Mrs. Rosproy's presentation, see [this link](#). During her presentation she noted:

- Connections are critical- with colleagues, community members as well as students
- Self-regulation is a key to increasing academic skills
- Intergenerational schools help increase academic skills
- A video of the work she did developing an intergenerational preschool program in Winfield, Kansas, prior to her NTOY recognition can be found [here](#)
- 3.5 million 4-year-old children get NO early childhood programming
- Pre-K is often not part of the conversation in education and Kansas is falling behind in serving this population
- We all need to advocate for high quality early childhood programs and educate others on the value of children learning content through age-appropriate activities such as play
- Pre-K programs can offer an excellent foundation for social-emotional learning
- "From tiny seeds grow mighty trees"

What can we do? Leadership is an activity, not only a position...we can all help!

- Shift our vocabulary to PreK-12, rather than K-12
- Advocate for early childhood education for every child and community
- Include the voices of early childhood educators in educational discussions and decisions

What surprised her during her term?

She knew Kansas was a great place to teach, but that thought was solidified as she found that other teachers are not as supported by their state agencies or others within the state. She was proud to represent Kansas!

Legislative Update: There are many legislative decisions being made at this time in Topeka. It is important that all educators remain informed and communicate with their members regarding how we can advocate for strong funding and equitable educational opportunities. (funding/voucher competition for funding; transgender sport/ discrimination, micromanagement of curriculum-civics assessment, etc.).

The mission of **KLFA** is "to unite the education community to improve our outstanding public education system, pre-K through higher education, to empower each Kansan to succeed in the diverse, interdependent world of the 21st century", More information can be found at the KLFA [Website](#) and/or look for "Kansas Learning First Alliance" on Facebook. Please contact Laurie Curtis, KLFA Chair, for more information on how you can be a part of KLFA. (ljcurtis@ksu.edu)

KLFA meetings have been scheduled for the 2021-2022 academic year with time and format still being determined. Please mark your calendars for:

August 26, 2021; October 14, 2021; January 27, 2022; April 7, 2022