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## **Roanoke County Elementary Teacher Receives \$25,000 Milken Educator Award**

VINTON, Va. — W.E. Cundiff Elementary School teacher Lindsay Murray today received a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award during a surprise assembly at the Roanoke County school. The award was presented by Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples and Milken Family Foundation Senior Vice President Jane Foley.

Murray teaches fourth grade and has played leadership roles in implementing project-based learning, promoting elementary STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) instruction and in developing alternative and performance-based assessments in her school, division and region.

“Cundiff is a wonderful place and we have a wonderful staff and I can’t thank you enough for this honor,” Murray said after the award was announced.

“Lindsay is a classroom innovator who challenges her students to be problem solvers and to excel in all of their subjects,” Staples said. “She has been recognized by her peers as an exceptional educator and as a leader since the beginning of her teaching career.”

Murray began her teaching career in 2008 at Dudley Elementary in Franklin County, where she was nominated for a new teacher of the year award. The following year, she began teaching at W.E. Cundiff Elementary, where she has been ever since. Murray has been nominated several times for Roanoke County’s Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award and is a finalist for the honor this year.

Murray grew up in Roanoke County and graduated from Hidden Valley High. She earned two degrees from James Madison University: a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary liberal studies in 2007, and a master’s in teaching and elementary education in 2008.

The Milken Educator Awards program recognizes and rewards teachers, principals and other public school educators who promote excellence and innovation. Recipients are selected on the basis of multiple criteria related to instructional practice, leadership, student achievement and accomplishments outside the classroom.

Murray is the 43rd Virginia educator to receive the award since 1999. Since the launch of the Milken Educator Awards in 1987, the Milken Family Foundation has distributed more than \$68 million in awards to more than 2,700 educators across the country including \$1,0275,000 million in Virginia.

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