

Central Arkansas Teachers Receive \$82,000 Surprise

-Governor Hutchinson, local Coca-Cola bottler, and Kroger recognize 'Stars in Education'-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(LITTLE ROCK, AR) - Coca-Cola Consolidated and Kroger teamed up this week to honor teachers throughout central Arkansas. Seven school districts (Benton, Bryant, Cabot, Conway, Pulaski County, Little Rock and North Little Rock) nominated 150 'Stars in Education' to receive \$500 to refresh their classrooms.

"Teachers invest in our community each day through their work," said Devin Dunnaway, director of retail sales for Coca-Cola Consolidated. "Our 'BIG HEARTS. mini cans.' grant program gives us the opportunity to invest back in them. We like to say that our cans might be mini, but our appreciation for our local educators is enormous."

All 150 nominees are also invited to an event in their honor on Nov. 10, where Governor Asa Hutchinson, local elected officials and community leaders will celebrate these deserving educators.

"A teacher's work day doesn't end at the final bell, and their expenses don't end when the school's money runs out," said Governor Asa Hutchinson. "Thank you to Coca-Cola and Kroger for recognizing the personal sacrifice our teachers make and for rewarding them with this investment in their mission to educate our children."

Each participating school district also selected one district-wide winner to receive an additional \$1,000 from Kroger. On Tuesday and Wednesday, these teachers were surprised in their classrooms by representatives from Coke Consolidated and Kroger.

"Our educators spend an average of \$500 from their own pocket on classroom supplies," said Montague Ridgell, district operations and merchandising manager for Kroger. "We're proud to present these amazing educators with \$1,000 to help offset those costs."

The 'Stars in Education' event will take place at the Clinton Presidential Center. Guests will enjoy live music, a catered dinner, and a ceremony honoring teachers' work to support families throughout central Arkansas.