



Historical – Laura Baker Professional Learning Grant

Named and founded in memory of one of Murray's outstanding community leaders – including 22 years of service on the Murray Board of Education – Laura Baker was an important advocate of professional development among Murray educators. Though she passed away in 2011, her legacy for love of learning continues in the recipients of the annual grants given in her name. These awards are administered annually through the Murray Education Foundation.



2023-24 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Blaire Buteau, Hillcrest Jr. High, School Psychologist
Faithe Conners, Hillcrest Jr. High, Social Worker
Tricia Kamp, Districtwide, Occupational Therapy
Rebeca Powell, Longview, SLP
Cole Robinson, McMillan, Social Worker
Chelsea Strong, Horizon, Social Worker
Kimberlee Talbot, Parkside, SLP
Steffie Williams, Viewmont, Kindergarten Teacher

2022-23 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Shelley Phillips, Hillcrest Jr. High Special Education
Cyndi Ralston, Liberty Elementary School Social Work
Jennifer Ketchoyian, Murray High School Social Work

2021-22 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

- Catherine Bigelow, Occupational Therapist, MCSD Assistive Technology Team
- Harmony Kryger, Elementary ESL Instructional Coach
- Heather Wihongi, Riverview Jr. High English/Journalism Teacher
- Mary Wilde, Parkside Elem. Intervention Specialist (1st – 3rd Grade)
- Heather Preece, Murray High School Social Worker
- Susan Holden, Horizon Elementary Social Worker

2020-21 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Breanna Tomlinson, Murray High School Special Education
Michelle Bouwman, Parkside Elementary School Social
Cyndi Ralson, Liberty Elementary/Hillcrest Social Work
Lidia Delgado, Parkside Elementary Teacher
Sierra Marsh, Grant Elementary Social Work
Claire Meier, District Office Technology Coach
Geri Smith, District Office Technology Coach
Mike Roberts, Hillcrest Jr. High Instructional Coach
Melia Fidel, Murray High School Media Center
Amber Rydalch, Murray High School Instructional Coach
Lora Bonham, Parkside Elementary Social Work
Catherine Bigalow, Murray School District

2019-20 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Cara Cerise, Parkside Elementary
Michelle Bouwman, Parkside Elementary
Katie Jepson, Murray High School

2018-19 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Geri Smith, MCSD Elementary Technology Coach
Lynn Gutzwiller, MCSD Secondary Technology Coach

2017-18 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Jennie LaFortune, MHS English Teacher
Patti McConnell, Riverview Computer Teacher

2016-17 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Deb Ashton, DO Coordinator/Court Liaison Prevention Prog.
Zachary Giddings, MHS Instrumental Music Instructor

2015-16 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Laurel Brown, Speech Language Pathologist & Adult Transition
Amber Rydalch, MHS Instructional Coach

2014-15 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Shawn Johnson, Horizon Elementary School Psychologist
Heather Wihongi, Riverview JH English Teacher

2012-13 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Michael Paap, Hillcrest Math Teacher
Heather Preece, Murray High School Success

2013-14 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Haley Binggeli, Murray HS Math Teacher
Tracy Findlay, Liberty Elementary 2nd grade teacher

2011-12 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants

Cambria Demke, Riverview English
Rebecca Elder, McMillan Elementary 4th grade