

Epperson, Henson serving in ARI Student Senate

Harlan County High School students Breanna Epperson and Garry Henson are serving as members of the Appalachian Renaissance Initiatives Student Senate.

The ARI Student Senate is a critical student agency component of the U.S. Race to the Top Grant received by Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) and is comprised of students from seventeen school districts in the region. Each district selects one junior and one senior to send to the Senate. Over the coming year, Student Senate members will work toward a more participatory role for students, as full partners in their education, through avenues of academics, community service, and school culture, focusing on themes of community health, economic development, and energy.



Harlan County High School's ARI Student Senators are Breanna Epperson and Garry Henson.

Senators work to uphold, promote and support the ideas and activities and initiatives of the student senate. They serve as positive role models, leaders and the voice for the student population at their school, across the region and in their communities.

The group is challenged to empower the entire student body through measures to enhance the student experience through supporting and drafting policy that promotes student interests, needs and welfare. Serving as a liaison

“We are very fortunate to have two students who are willing to work and are very ambitious in their quest to complete initiatives for Harlan County High School and Harlan County at large,” said David Hensley, who serves as the Majority Leader for the Harlan County students.

Epperson, serving in the senate for the second year, said, “I am honored to be a member of the KVEC Student Senate. Being able to collaborate with students from other schools in the region is great.”

She said the senators “learn from each other and feed off of each other’s ideas and actions. I hope that I can keep in touch with some of the contacts I have made so that I can continue to help HCHS as much as possible, even when I do graduate.”

One of the new junior class inductees to the panel is Garry Henson.

“I am truly honored to be selected as Harlan County High School’s junior student senate member. I look forward to seeing what all I can do and provide for my hometown.”

A 2017 Kentucky Governor’s Scholar, Epperson is a two-time member of the HCHS International Community Problem solving Team finishing as runner up, the 2017 State community Problem Solving Team champion, a member of the two time cross country regional champion team, a member of the seven time Area 9 District cross country team champion and the 2016 state and international individual Future Problem Solving finalist. She is the daughter of Clarence and April Epperson.

A 2016 Rogers Explorer and University of Kentucky Rising Scholar, Henson is a member of the Beta Club, Educational Talent Search, First Priority Scholar, All-A Honor roll, and two times Kentucky Academic All-State. He is a three-year member of the varsity football team and received Associated Press All-State and All Southeastern Kentucky Conference honors. He is a member of the Loyall First Baptist Church. He is the son of Garry and Donnece Henson of Harlan.