

A Harlan County High School teacher and two students have received Black Bear awards from the Superintendent's Student Council.



Harlan County High School Teacher Jennifer Hilton received the Superintendent's Student Council Black Bear Inspirational Teacher Award for January.

Students Ashley Hoskins and Amanda Caudill, both seniors, received the Black Bear Kindness Awards for December and January, respectively.

"You've been a blessing to me and other students," said junior council member Olivia Minor. "You are one of the best teachers I've ever had. I thank you for all you do.

"I'm just tickled to death," said Hilton after receiving the award during the student council meeting and hearing students commend her for what she does to assist them in their education and extra-curricular activities. "I enjoyed sitting in on the meeting. I really enjoyed it. I was envious because I want a teacher's council. I was impressed because they are truly concerned about what they are doing. They are involved with what they are doing."

Hilton has taught for 12 years, with four of those being dual credit biology, anatomy and physiology. She coaches volleyball and serves as assistant track and field coach.

Council member Sean Warren said, "I've always heard anyone who had you in class say what a great teacher you are. That speaks for itself. You go out of your way to make sure we have hands on experiences in your classes."

Jessica Caudill noted that Hilton continually goes out of her way to produce letters of recommendation and reference for college admissions and scholarships.

Janice Dean, a senior, noted that Hilton tirelessly assists students with activities that do not directly relate to the classes she teaches. "You help us find the information, the resources, that we need," she said.

“I am honored,” said Hilton. “This does mean more to me than anything else I could receive because it came from students,” she said. “It is rewarding to know that they know they can come to me. It is rewarding to know that they do trust me, that they see who I am and can trust in who I am.”

Hilton holds degrees from Alice Lloyd College, Union College and Western Governor’s University.

She was chosen from approximately 60 teachers to be presented the first award.

Council members noted the positive attitudes displayed by Hoskins and Caudill and their genuine caring for others as reasons for their selection to receive the Black Bear Kindness Award. They are positive role models for fellow students, council members said.

Student Council members nominate and select the award recipients.

Superintendent Brent Roark told Hoskins and Caudill that they should be honored to “be recognized for the award by their peers.”

Hoskins is a member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Educational Talent Search, secretary of Spanish honor society, fund development and actress for the Drama Club, and Gifted and Talented. She has a 3.9 grade point average and plans to attend Alice Lloyd College to pursue a degree in psychology. She is the daughter of Rand and Donna Hoskins.

Caudill is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Beta Club, Educational Talent Search and track. She have a 4.0 grade point average. She plans to attend Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College to pursue a nursing degree. She is the daughter of Danny and Carrissa Caudill.