

# Counselor Laura Carter Receives Pathfinder Award



**Career and College Counselor Laura Carter (center) was surprised last Friday with the 2026 Kentucky High School Teacher/Counselor Pathfinder Award presented by Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC). The award is based on nominations from students and colleagues. Making the presentation included, from left: Denna White, SKYCTC admission director; Dr. Michelle Tarwick, SKYCTC Director; Dr. Brooks Justice, Chief Student Affairs Officer at SKYCTC; and Mary Grace Simpson (Admissions Counselor at SKYCTC).**

By **Don Meador**  
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the school year, seniors at Allen County-Scottsville High School meet face-to-face with Allen County Career and Technical Center College and Career counselor Laura Carter to talk about their future. Carter speaks with each student about their ambitions. She listens to their goals and concerns, takes their questions, and helps guide them in their preparation for life beyond high school.

That being the case, it was only fitting that graduation practice for the Class of 2026 was paused on Friday, May 15 for a special presentation. With the senior class looking on, Carter was surprised with the 2026 High School Teacher/Counselor Pathfinder Award presented by Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College. The prestigious recognition is part of a statewide initiative led by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to spotlight high school educators who go above and beyond in preparing students for college

and career success. “The Pathfinder Award is presented annually to high school teachers and counselors who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to guiding students through academic and career planning,” explained SKYCTC Director and CEO Dr. Michelle Tarwick, “This recognition reflects Mrs. Carter’s dedication to helping students discover educational opportunities and career pathways that best fit their goals, talents and aspirations. Mrs. Carter works individually with students to help them explore options for life after graduation, including community and technical college pathways. She has organized career fairs featuring colleges, businesses, and workforce partners while also arranging campus visits and workplace tours that allow students to experience career opportunities firsthand.”

During her remarks, Dr. Tarwick explained that Carter was nominated for the Pathfinder Award by multiple students and

colleagues. “Students and colleagues alike praise Mrs. Carter for her ability to make college feel possible, especially for students who may feel uncertain about their future,” Dr. Tarwick added. “Through patience, encouragement, and genuine compassion, she helps students identify their strengths, connect their interests to meaningful careers, and build confidence in their next steps. Students shared that Mrs. Carter takes time to explain career pathways in ways that are easy to understand and never overwhelming. Whether students arrive with a clear plan or uncertainty about their future, she meets them where they are and helps guide them toward opportunities that align with their goals. Her colleagues also noted Mrs. Carter’s willingness to go above and beyond, emphasizing that if she does not immediately know an answer, she will work diligently to connect students with someone who does.”

Carter is one of 16 regional winners recognized. She is now eligible for the state Pathfinder Award.

## -SPOTLIGHT

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often.” While operating one food truck can be ambitious of itself, operating two can be tricky. There’s the matter of having a permanent location, The Big MOO on East Main Street. So the question of downtime and relaxation came up – how do they operate those three without getting tired of it all or being burned out?

Smallwood admitted, “We don’t relax!” She revealed, “On top of the business I also sell real estate and work a full-time job. I don’t think we know what relaxing means!” Yet, “In downtime we like to take trips and spend time with our daughter at the pool.”

What makes things a little easier though is “The Mobile MOO and The Big MOO have the same ice cream menu with the exception of The Big MOO selling hard scooped ice cream.”

She explained “The Mobile MOO has about six different categories – cones/cups, milkshakes, sundaes, twisters, specialties, Italian water ice, floats and banana splits. Mac Madness has seven different flavors of mac and cheese and then a ‘Madness Munchie’ that is fried foods.”

With the entrepreneurial spirit and certainly demonstrating a willingness to not be idle, Smallwood was asked if plans for a

third food truck was in the works or maybe even another business altogether?

“You never know what’s in store for us,” she said. “I don’t believe we will open or start a different business but maybe more locations.” Then she added, “If we do that, I don’t see it for being for a few years.”

If you are the owner of a food truck based in Scottsville or Allen County, let us know about your business so that we can put a spotlight on it as well. Give us a call at *The Citizen-Times* during our regular business hours or email ctimes@nctc.com or chris@thecitizen-times.com.

# Storm Fern Application Waiting Washington D.C. FEMA Approval

By **H.D. Overholt**  
STAFF REPORTER

Allen County Fiscal Court met Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 9 a.m. in the City-County Building Fiscal Court Room, 201 West Main Street with Judge-Executive Dennis Harper presiding and Magistrate Wendell Spears absent.

April 28, 2026 minutes were approved with no corrections or additions noted.

Bills list was presented and approved along with a transfer of funds from general account to Jail Account (\$56,000), Transfer Station (\$22,000) and \$13,000 to Road Fund Special Reserve. The Allen County proposed 2026-2027 budget received first reading and includes a four percent raise for county employees. The budget workshop was conducted May 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Magistrates approved a standing order for recurring bills to be paid each month when presented to County Treasurer.

Judge-Executive Harper recognized South Central Kentucky Drug Task Force (SCKDTF) Director Jacky Hunt for an update in Allen County activity. Allen County and City of Scottsville officially joined SKDTF with an interlocal agreement for a restructured task force regional drug enforcement effort in Simpson and Allen Counties in July 2025. This regional task force is great for the Simpson-Allen County area. “Simpson and Allen are in the same judicial district and have the same circuit judge, district judge and commonwealth attorney for both counties; that makes prosecutions and obtaining of warrants a lot simpler,” Hunt related at the time of the agreement.

Hunt reviewed a list of drugs the area is being presented with, as well as the endeavor to interrupt the supply chain avenues as Hunt related a money identification system is in place when agents purchase drugs from dealers. The tracking will show up in drug supply areas upon arrest confiscations—identifying paths of supply. Hunt also emphasized the great working ability with the county and city law enforcement personnel is an asset in dealing with illegal drug activity in the area.

Allen County Sheriff’s April Report, given by Sheriff Brandon Ford, reviewed activity within the department including nine alcohol, 32 accidents, 23 alarm calls, nine domestic violence, 20 motorist assists, 26 welfare checks, 146 civil summons served, 22 subpoenas, 19 warrants served and 15 transports with a total of 737 calls for service. Sheriff Ford related Scott Wade, Intermediate Center Resource Officer will leave the

department on his last day, Friday, May 15.

Magistrates approved purchasing three Durango vehicles at \$173,000 as well as a resolution to use Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) financing at 4.89 percent interest five-year term along with authorizing Judge-Executive Harper to sign paperwork for the transaction.

Allen County Jailer Tim Meador reported housing census at 42 state inmates and 43 county inmates. Ten ankle monitor clients paid \$3,230 in home incarceration with a billing to the State of Kentucky, \$41,736.54 for 39 state inmates in April. With 15 weeks of community service completed, 244,900 pounds of trash has been collected on rights-of-way along with 55 tires and 12 dump sites cleaned. A male crew of four is mowing and trimming county properties currently. The Second Chance Offender Rehabilitation Education Program or SCORE is a program helping inmates become productive members of society. Jailer Meador reported one inmate is involved in the program with a public work employment and paying expenses of incarceration.

Magistrates were requested to submit their road paving list needs. Aggregate and asphalt bids taken on May 8, 2026 were awarded, with magistrate approval, to Scottys Contracting & Stone. Aggregate was 4.5 percent increase and asphalt was 11.5 percent increase. The 400 miles of county rights-of-way mowing has begun in the Mt Union area.

Magistrates approved purchase of a mower replacement which burned a few weeks ago with KACo insurance \$121,000 coverage and KACo financing at 4.89 percent interest five year term for \$178,000 balance in purchase price of a Mower Max. Magistrates authorized Judge-Executive Harper to sign paperwork for the transactions.

Magistrates approved unneeded selected equipment at the road department facility as surplus and send to Harper Sales (no relation to Judge-Executive) for disposal.

Transfer Station Director Derek Isenberg gave a Hazard Waste Day report which amassed 4,200 pounds paper and 17,000 pounds hazard waste collection with 300 people participating. Director Isenberg reminded Magistrates of the state requirement Allen County Transfer Station can only receive local residence trash and public notice is being implemented at the station.

Magistrates approved Judge-Executive Harper to sign documents for Kentucky Pride Grant Agree-

ment obtaining a \$90,000 skid steer loader for the Transfer Station. Governor Andy Beshear announced \$6 million in grants for projects aimed at reducing solid waste in landfills and improving the management of hazardous household waste. The funding, which comes from state dollars supported through the Kentucky Pride Fund, is provided to municipalities, universities and fiscal courts for 68 projects across the Commonwealth. The program awards three types of grants. The recycling grant provides funds for counties to purchase recycling equipment with the goal of promoting sustainable regional recycling infrastructure in Kentucky. There were 36 recycling grants totaling about \$4.4 million. The grant require a 25 percent local match in the form of cash or “in kind” labor, educational activities or advertising to promote the program from those receiving the awards.

A state mandated concrete pad at the Transfer Station has been in an engineer planning stage and is ready for construction to control leaching of rainwater and liquids into the surrounding environment. Commonwealth Engineer Jeff Lashley, Bowling Green, presented the \$80,000 fee to the Fiscal Court. It is related upon completion of the pad, all Kentucky State regulations will be completed and up to date with the Transfer Station.

Animal Shelter Director Johnathan Carter reported April daily average housing of dogs at 17 and cats at 11 with eight dogs and no cat euthanasia. Released to Warren County Humane Society were 24 dogs and 18 cats with 27 city runs and 62 county runs.

Judge-Executive Harper read a Bethlehem Baptist Church Week proclamation for May 11-17, 2026 in conjunction with their 225 year anniversary celebration.

Judge-Executive Harper reported contact of North Central Telephone for quote pricing of updating equipment as well as tech service for the county office’s facility.

Allen County Emergency Director Gary Petty related Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had reviewed a concerned item involving concrete construction of culverts relating to the 2025 spring application and representatives were satisfied with oversight of the items. Allen County Storm Fern application is waiting in Washington D.C. for a Presidential declaration of Kentucky Aid. Tennessee has been approved and Kentucky entities can only be reimbursed with a Presidential declaration of disaster for the area or state.

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