

Finding her place

ACTC professor reflects on her journey from student to faculty

BY JANET THOMPSON
ACTC RELEASE

ASHLAND More than three decades after helping establish Ashland Community and Technical College’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapter, Professor Laura Tussey reflects on how the experience helped her see herself as an academic and encourages today’s students to find their own place in their college journey.

Professor Laura Tussey began her educational journey at ACTC as a new mother, taking just one class at a time. Without role models in academia, she did not initially picture herself transferring to a four-year institution, earning a master’s degree, and eventually becoming a college professor at the same place where her educational journey began.

Today, Tussey is a Professor of English and Humanities of Appalachia at ACTC and serves as coordinator of the college’s Appalachian Studies certificate.

“Like so many new parents, I came to college because I wanted a better life for my daughter, and I was starving for company and ideas,” Tussey said. “I had always thought of college as unattainable...somewhere that people with money sent their kids, and I had no idea how to apply or what I needed to do to ‘belong,’ but I knew I wanted something more. The hardest obstacles are often in one’s mind.”

Tussey’s involvement in academics began to blossom after she joined PTK, becoming one of 30 charter members who established an ACTC chapter in 1994.

PTK didn’t simply recognize Tussey’s academic achievement;



Laura Tussey

it helped her recognize potential within herself.

Through PTK, she participated in fundraising, chapter meetings, and opportunities for community service. She found herself surrounded by other students who valued academics. That sense of community and belonging helped Tussey begin to envision herself as an academic and inspired her to continue her education beyond ACTC.

Tussey says being a member of PTK offered her a built-in support system that helped her succeed in college.

“PTK was the bridge that brought me to the understanding that I, too, could be an intellectual,” Tussey said. “My first semester at ACC, I took one class and earned an A. By the third semester, I became a charter member of PTK and found myself surrounded by dynamic, like-minded people. After that, it was like I was driven to make the grade and to see how many A grades I could earn.”

“Many times, our students, me included, are pulled back from our studies by cultural influences that value body-service over academics. PTK fortified and supported me when I needed it most, and those connections were so impactful.”

Tussey’s positive experience with Phi Theta Kappa would later influ-

ence the opportunities she helped create for other ACTC students.

As a faculty member, she helped establish Sigma Kappa Delta, the English honor society for two-year colleges., Open to eligible students beyond English majors, the organization provides opportunities to engage in activities such as literature discussions, creative writing, and book drives.

Tussey’s journey came full circle from a student who found confidence and belonging through an academic honor society to a professor helping create that same sense of academic community for new students.

She encourages students to consider the impact PTK membership can have on their college experience and beyond.

“Take the opportunity to join Phi Theta Kappa,” she said. “You may discover that you belong in places you never imagined for yourself.”

For students considering whether to accept their invitation, Tussey’s journey demonstrates how becoming involved can mean much more

than adding an honor society membership to a résumé. More than 30 years after becoming one of ACTC’s first PTK members, the academic community Tussey found through the organization continues to influence the opportunities she creates for students today.

ACTC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter is currently welcoming a new generation of students as part of its Fall 2026 membership drive. Invitations are being sent to students who have earned a cumulative 3.25 GPA and completed at least 18 credit hours of college-level coursework at the 100 level or above. Eligible students may join PTK at any time while they are currently enrolled at ACTC and continue to meet the chapter’s GPA requirements.

For more information on PTK, contact Janet. Thompson@kctcs.edu.

JUMBLE

Answer:

SURVEY CENSUS PELVIS SAVIOR MISUSE UNSURE

The poets went head-to-head in a contest that featured —

VERSES VERSUS VERSES

ANSWER TO TODAY’S PUZZLE

P	A	S	T	E	L		S	E	E	Y	A			F	O	R	G	E	S	
E	L	L	E	R	Y		A	O	R	T	A	L		B	A	L	I	H	A	I
P	A	R	T	I	N	G	S	N	A	C	K	S		E	D	I	T	O	R	S
				E	N	O	K	I			K	O	L	A		V	E	S	T	S
M	O	O	D		E	S	C	A	P	E	R	O	U	T	E		T	H	Y	
E	M	P	E	R	O	R		C	E	D	A	R		A	R	C	S			
T	I	E	B	A	R		L	O	A	N		N	E	A	T		C	T	R	S
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	A	R	I	N	G			B	A	I	L	O	U	T
			T	R	I	P	L	E			L	A	D	S		M	E	R	G	E
P	E	L	E		S	I	A		I	M	A	G	E		S	A	F	I	R	E
A	V	I		H	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	E	A	S	O	N		N	A	P
T	E	F	L	O	N		E	W	E	R	S		D	N	A		S	G	T	S
O	N	E	A	L		P	R	O	P			M	E	A	N	T	O			
I	S	O	T	O	P	E			T	A	X	I	N	G	D	R	I	V	E	R
S	O	F	T		L	A	M	B		X	M	A	S		S	A	L	A	M	I
		R	E	B	A		A	L	B	E	E			M	O	M	E	N	T	S
C	S	I		O	N	C	L	O	U	D	N	I	N	E			D	E	S	K
H	E	L	I	X		C	O	O	L			N	A	R	C	S				
U	T	I	L	I	Z	E		M	O	V	I	N	G	V	I	L	L	A	I	N
T	O	N	Y	N	O	D		E	V	I	T	E	S		T	O	O	T	O	O
E	N	G	A	G	E			R	A	Z	O	R			I	T	S	F	U	N

10/25/26

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING

Greenup County Schools is accepting sealed bids for Bus #803 and Bus #605. Sealed bids will be accepted until Nov. 6th at 1:00 PM. Bids will be opened Nov. 6th at 1:05 PM. Minimum bid is \$1,200. Both busses run and drive. Sealed bids can be dropped off or mailed to Greenup County Schools ATTN: Matt Thompson 45 Musketeer Dr. Greenup KY, 41144. For more information, a full bid packet has been posted on the Greenup County Schools Website.

Published: October 24, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

The City of Ashland hereby advises, without further notice, that any person or entity claiming ownership of or holding interest or other encumbrances in the property at **1717 Miller Street, Ashland, KY 41101** is notified that the structures have been found unsafe and unfit for human habitation or use. Failure to repair, demolish, or obtain a restraining order within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice will result in the City of Ashland razing and removing all structures. A lien for all associated notification, legal, and demolition expenses will be charged against the real estate. For inquiries, please contact Jacob Risner, Program and Grant Administrator, at (606) 268-0541; jrisner@ashlandky.gov; by mail at PO Box 1839, Ashland, KY 41105; or in person during regular business hours at 1700 Greenup Avenue, Room 208, Ashland, KY 41101.

Published: October 24, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

The City of Ashland hereby advises, without further notice, that any person or entity claiming ownership of or holding interest or other encumbrances in the property at **1709 Hilton Avenue, Ashland, KY 41101** is notified that the structures have been found unsafe and unfit for human habitation or use. Failure to repair, demolish, or obtain a restraining order within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice will result in the City of Ashland razing and removing all structures. A lien for all associated notification, legal, and demolition expenses will be charged against the real estate. For inquiries, please contact Jacob Risner, Program and Grant Administrator, at (606) 268-0541; jrisner@ashlandky.gov; by mail at PO Box 1839, Ashland, KY 41105; or in person during regular business hours at 1700 Greenup Avenue, Room 208, Ashland, KY 41101.

Published: October 24, 2026

BOYD CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00384

AMBER R. COMPTON,

PLAINTIFF,

vs.

ADVERTISEMENT

JASON K. DEERFIELD;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JASON K. DEERFIELD;
KENTUCKY FARMERS BANK CORPORATION, fdba
Kentucky Farmers Bank;
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA;
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF BOYD,

DEFENDANTS.

Pursuant to Judgment and Order of Sale entered on October 12, 2026, I shall sell the property described herein below at public auction in the lobby inside the front door of the old Boyd County Courthouse, Catlettsburg, Kentucky, on **Friday, November 13, 2026, at 11:35 a.m.**, to highest bidder on the following terms:

Full purchase price will be due at time of sale, payable by personal, business or official check. We do not accept cash. **If the Master Commissioner has pre-approved the surety and collateral for a bidder's bond**, a down payment of ten-percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due at time of sale, and the unpaid balance with interest at the rate of **12% per annum** will be due within thirty (30) days from the date of sale.

Address of Property: 18148 Deerfield Drive, Rush
(For Legal Description, see LSOT: Deed Book 783, Page 20, Boyd County Clerk’s Office)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 027-00-00-037.04

NOTE - Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

/s/ Kenneth Williams, Jr.
KENNETH WILLIAMS, JR.
BOYD CIRCUIT COURT
MASTER COMMISSIONER

Please visit our website:

www.boydcountykymastercommissioner.com
Published: October 24 and November 5, 2026

BOYD CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00128

HIPPOLYTE, LLC,

PLAINTIFF,

vs.

ADVERTISEMENT

ERIC CHARLTON;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ERIC CHARLTON;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF VONDA CHARLTON;
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF VONDA CHARLTON;
UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF UNKNOWN HEIRS OF
VONDA CHARLTON;
UNKNOWN TENANTS;
FIFTH THIRD MORTGAGE COMPANY;
STATEBRIDGE COMPANY, LLC;
CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY;
COUNTY OF BOYD, KENTUCKY,

DEFENDANTS.

Pursuant to Judgement Order of Sale entered on October 12, 2026, I shall sell the property described herein below at public auction in the lobby inside the front door of the old Boyd County Courthouse, Catlettsburg, Kentucky, on **Friday, November 13, at 11:25 a.m.**, to highest bidder on the following terms:

Full purchase price will be due at the time of sale, payable by personal, business or official check or money order. We do not accept cash. **If the Master Commissioner has pre-approved the surety for a bidder's bond**, a down payment of ten-percent of the purchase price will be due at time of sale, and the unpaid balance with interest at the rate of **12% per annum** will be due within thirty (30) days from the date of sale.

Address/Short Description of Property: 3205 Hackworth Street, Ashland (For Legal Description, see LSOT: Deed Book 668, Page 714, Boyd County Clerk’s Office)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 038-16-01-025.00

NOTE - Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

/s/ Kenneth Williams, Jr.
KENNETH WILLIAMS, JR.
BOYD CIRCUIT COURT
MASTER COMMISSIONER

Please visit our website:

www.boydcountykymastercommissioner.com
Published: October 24 and November 5, 2026

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR EVENING OF HALLOWEEN FUN!

MONSTER BASH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
5-7:00 PM | MIDLAND

Join us for games, a costume contest, special guests, and more! We're also bringing back the Haunted Maze and adding a Game Zone just for our littlest guests, ages three and under.

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS PEANUT THE CLOWN, BOUNCE INTO FUN, AND KONA ICE



#BCPOPEN4ALL

thebookplace.org
(606) 329-0090

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEMOLISH

The City of Ashland hereby advises, without further notice, that any person or entity claiming ownership of or holding interest or other encumbrances in the property at **335 49th Street, Ashland, KY 41101** is notified that the structures have been found unsafe and unfit for human habitation or use. Failure to repair, demolish, or obtain a restraining order within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice will result in the City of Ashland razing and removing all structures. A lien for all associated notification, legal, and demolition expenses will be charged against the real estate. For inquiries, please contact Jacob Risner, Program and Grant Administrator, at (606) 268-0541; jrisner@ashlandky.gov; by mail at PO Box 1839, Ashland, KY 41105; or in person during regular business hours at 1700 Greenup Avenue, Room 208, Ashland, KY 41101.

Published: October 24, 2026

BOYD CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-CI-00505

JENNA GARRETT,

PLAINTIFF,

vs.

ADVERTISEMENT

DIANNA HELTON,

DEFENDANTS.

Pursuant to Agreed Judgment entered on May 22, 2025, and Order of Sale entered on October 2, 2026, I shall sell the property described herein below at public auction in the lobby inside the front door of the old Boyd County Courthouse, Catlettsburg, Kentucky, on **Friday, November 13, 2026, at 11:20 a.m.**, to highest bidder on the following terms:

Full purchase price will be due at time of sale, payable by personal, business or official check. We do not accept cash. **If the Master Commissioner has pre-approved the surety and collateral for a bidder's bond**, a down payment of ten-percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due at time of sale, and the unpaid balance with interest at the rate of **12% per annum** will be due within thirty (30) days from the date of sale.

Address of Property: 1505 Rebel Road, Ashland
(For Legal Description, see LSOT: Deed Book 655, Page 742, Boyd County Clerk’s Office)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 024-07-00-092.00

NOTE - Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

/s/ Kenneth Williams, Jr.
KENNETH WILLIAMS, JR.
BOYD CIRCUIT COURT
MASTER COMMISSIONER

Please visit our website:
www.boydcountykymastercommissioner.com

Published: October 24 and November 5, 2026