

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katie Wears, kwears@franklinswcd.org, (614) 486-9613 (office)

Columbus City School District Librarians Receive Educator of the Year Awards

At the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District 69th Annual Meeting

09/23/2015 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— The Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District recognized two Columbus City School District Librarians with the Educator of the Year Award at their 69th Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Election on Thursday, September 17th. Kathleen (Katy) Bertner of Cranbrook Elementary and Jenny Carter of West Mound Elementary were both recognized for their outstanding contribution to their schools by working with Franklin Soil and Water to utilize environmental science programs in order to enhance comprehension of the Ohio Science Standards.

The Educator of the Year Award is presented to either a formal or non-formal educator whose willingness to go the extra mile helps students appreciate nature and understand environmental interactions. This year, not one, but two educators were recognized by Franklin Soil and Water.

Katy Bertner has gone above and beyond her role as a Librarian at Cranbrook Elementary. She coordinates closely with teachers to ensure books are available for their lesson plans and has worked with the Franklin Soil and Water Education Team for years, incorporating *The Lorax* presentation into many lesson plans around Earth Day and Arbor Day. This year, Katy expanded Franklin Soil and Water's presence by scheduling the *Soil Tunnel*, *Dry Stream*, and *Erosion Simulator* for third and fourth graders. Katy Bertner has also taken part in at least one FSWCD Educator Workshop.



[Cranbrook Elementary Librarian, Katy Bertner (Center with Award) with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Education Team, Linda Pettit (left) and Carol Loopstra (right)]

Second awardee and Librarian, Jenny Carter has continuously worked with both teachers at West Mound Elementary and the Education Team at Franklin Soil and Water to schedule conservation science programs that go beyond her role at the school. She has had Franklin Soil and Water in every year to do *The Lorax* presentation in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Jenny expanded Franklin Soil and Water's role in West Mound Elementary this year by incorporating the *Murky Water Caper* presentation for both fourth and fifth graders.

The Annual Meeting and Supervisors' Election for 2015 was made possible thanks to funding support from American Electric Power, Scotts Miracle-Gro, McMahon DeGulis, LLP., Burgess & Niple, Stantec, and 3C Technology Solutions, LLC.

-30-A

The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote land-use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.