

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KDDC Student Wins in Writing Contest

A Knox Doss at Drakes Creek Middle School student, Ambri Wilson, has written a prize

winning essay in the Utrust make a

Difference Writing Competition this week. She received a check for \$100 for her entry honoring the teacher who has made the biggest difference in her life. Utrust Administrator, Dr. Dan Tollett, and Kristi Coleman, Utrust Director of Finance and Administration presented the award at Knox Doss at Drakes Creek Middle School on Wednesday, December 12. Principal Kenny Powell also participated in the presentation.

Ambri's essay was written to honor Coach Brent Cothron at Knox Doss Middle School. She writes that "Coach Cothron is full of good character. He is one of the most caring people I know and is extremely encouraging." Ambri described how Cothron has made a difference in their school and in her life. She wrote that when she doubted her leadership ability, "Coach Cothron never doubted me. He always told me I could do it and never let negative words come out of his mouth. He has been a huge inspiration in my life and he has been a true blessing!"

Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes to winners across the state for entries like these about school employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of students.



"Many school employees across this state go above and beyond what is required of them every day," said Dr. Tollett. "We want their stories to be written and celebrated. We ask every person who submits an essay to share it with the person about whom it is written. It makes a big difference in staff morale. It also makes a difference in students' lives when they learn to recognize and express appreciation to others. We want to see students develop and display an attitude of gratitude," he continued.

Utrust is a statewide organization that assists local school boards, administrators and students to recognize and appreciate school employees. Utrust sponsors the School Employee Appreciation Program that includes celebrations throughout each school year to honor school employee groups. Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes ranging from \$1000 to \$100 to winners of the writing competition across the state.

These special stories will be permanently added to the Utrust Make A Difference Library.

Visit www.tnuct.com for more information or to read the essays.