



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Van Buren County Schools Receives Award

The Van Buren County Schools received an award on Sunday evening for excellence in unemployment compensation administration. The award was presented by Utrust, a statewide organization that administers unemployment compensation for school boards. Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust Administrator and David Jones, Utrust Board Chairman presented the award to Superintendent Michael Martin.

Van Buren County has the impressive distinction of being the only school system with zero unemployment claims for the entire year. Superintendent Martin said “We have been very blessed with our employee retention the past several years. I’m grateful that we have such loyal employees. We are committed to making Van Buren County Schools a great place to work and learn.”

” We congratulate Van Buren County for the excellent job they have done in having zero unemployment compensation claims for the entire year,” said Utrust administrator Dr. Dan Tollett. “This is a highly unusual and significant accomplishment,” he continued, “and one that the taxpayers of Van Buren County should be extremely proud of. Some school systems spent more than \$100,000 on unemployment compensation claims last year while Van Buren County Schools had not a single claim.” No other Tennessee school system achieved such a goal.

The award is named after long time Sullivan County School Board member and former chairman of the Utrust Board of Trustees, Charles Bridwell. It honors school systems with the lowest unemployment claims. There are two divisions for the Bridwell award, one for systems with 500 or less employees and the other for systems with more than 500 employees. This was the first year the award was presented by Utrust.

Utrust is a statewide organization that promotes excellence in employee relations and administers unemployment compensation for local school boards in Tennessee. Utrust paid \$1.2 million more in unemployment claims than its members paid in premiums during the last three years.

Utrust also sponsors the School Employee Appreciation Program and an annual writing competition for both students and adults. The writing competition provides twenty cash awards to students and adults who write about the difference a school employee has made in their lives.

For more information contact

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