

JUNE 2011

News U Trust

APPRECIATING, DEVELOPING, AND SUPPORTING SCHOOL STAFF



IS YOUR SCHOOL A CANDIDATE FOR THE BEST SCHOOL EAP AWARD?

Does your school participate in the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program (EAP)? If so, you could win the Best School Employee Appreciation Program. To qualify for the award, complete the [on-line form](#). The following criteria are used to judge:



Themes. The extent to which you used the Utrust theme for each of the appreciation days.

A-Team. How did you use the A-Team to plan and implement of the appreciation day celebrations?

Involvement of Others. How the A-Team invited participation from others--fellow students, parents, internal and external organizations and the community--to share the fun of honoring school employees.

Coverage of Celebrations. How well and how often did you share the story of appreciation day celebrations? How many places were stories shared?

Click [here](#) for more information about the criteria for the Best School Appreciation Program Award or email akellogg@tnuct.com.

**Honor Your Disco Drivers**

Start your year off right by celebrating Bus Driver Appreciation Day with the suggested 70s theme. Utrust has many fun ideas to honor the disco drivers. The appreciation packets will be available soon for the celebration on September 15. Please contact Utrust if you need help with your Employee Appreciation Program- akellogg@tnuct.com or 615-452-7761.

TIPS FOR SCHOOL COORDINATORS

GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER YEAR

School Coordinators can get a jump on implementation of the Employee Appreciation Program for the year by following the suggestions available from Utrust. It contains themes, dates and suggestions about assessing resources in your school and community and inviting them to get involved in one or more celebration activities.

Suggestions are offered about potential resources within the school and community and ways to invite their participation. We have been pleasantly surprised at how many people welcome the opportunity to become engaged in the Employee Appreciation Program. Read "Getting Started" in Resource Central to help you get ready for the 2011-12 school year and be prepared to meet with your adult advisers and subsequently, advise your A-Team.

[Resource Central](#) is filled with suggestions and ideas for the school coordinator about how to implement the Utrust Employee Appreciation Program. If you find a need for help that is not available there, contact Utrust and we'll add it. We want Resource Central to contain all the information and ideas coordinators need to plan and implement the Utrust model appreciation program so that students develop leadership skills as they honor and expression to school employees. Please visit the page on the Utrust website for detailed information that will help you have an exceptional EAP.



join grouply

Another resource for coordinators is the Utrust Coordinators network on Grouply. This private social network page was created exclusively for School and System Coordinators. We encourage you to join because you can upload pictures, stories and videos from your appreciation day celebrations. Grouply is a place where you can post comments, ideas and suggestions related to the Employee Appreciation Program and even ask questions and get answers from other coordinators.

Click [here](#) to view the Utrust Coordinators Grouply page. Don't wait another minute, join now!





David Jones



Regina Waller



Jasper Taylor

Utrust Trustees Re-Elected

The results are in! Thanks to all who sent in their ballots. David Jones, Jasper Taylor and Regina Waller were up for reelection and each was reelected by school boards across Tennessee to serve a new three-year term on the Utrust Board of Trustees.

Jones of Sneedville has been on the board since 1986. He served as the Vice Chairman for eight years and has been the Chairman of the Board since 2007. He was elected at-large. Taylor, representing West Tennessee, has served on the Board of Trustees since 2005, while Waller, one of two middle Tennessee trustees, has served since 2008.

“The members of Utrust are very fortunate to have these three people representing them. Each of the three is an excellent trustee and they bring a unique strength to the board and make a strong board stronger,” said Dan Tollett, Utrust Administrator.

Let that school employee who made a difference in your life know that they made a lasting impression on you by writing an essay of appreciation. Take part and get students to take part in the 2011 Utrust Writing Competition and win one of many monetary awards.

This year we have an adult division and a student division. A first, second and third place winner for the adult division will receive \$1000, \$500 and \$250 respectively. The student division includes 17 prizes--a grand prize of \$1000, and a \$500 and \$250 winner in each region (west, middle and east Tennessee) and ten \$100 awards for runner ups.

With twenty prizes available your chance and your students chances are improved. Click [here](#) for information about the 2011 Utrust Writing Competition.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WRITING COMPETITION



Renewal
Time



UC Premiums Due
July 31

It's renewal time! Unemployment premiums have been sent out to members for the 2011-12 fiscal year with a due date of July 31. Utrust began the structure of one annual premium payment last year to make it simple and

easy for members. With that change, members are no longer required to file quarterly reports with Utrust or to use employee wages in premium calculation to make quarterly payments. Premiums will not change during the year.

The premium for each system is based entirely on the claims history for that system. No part of the premium is for administrative costs. We anticipate that premiums for nearly all systems are less than their claims will be for the year. So, be on the lookout for those premium invoices coming to you soon or go on-line now and view your system's premium at www.tnuct.com.

SAMPLE EMPLOYEE CONTRACT

Save money for your school system by simply having employee contracts for all school employees--even non-certificated. Employee contracts can help your board eliminate snow day claims. School boards in Tennessee have spent millions of dollars on unemployment compensation for snow days and non-renewal of nontenured teachers who are later employed after drawing benefits from the school system all summer.

Don't waste money on unemployment claims that can be prevented. Use the [sample contract](#) Utrust created.



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