



### **Farabaugh Tabbed District I POY**

**TUPELO, Miss.** — Parenting is hard. Being a working parent is harder. But being a working parent who is involved in education is one of the hardest jobs.

Kate Farabaugh, a two-time Tupelo Public School District Parent of the Year, has been named this year's Congressional District I Parent of the Year.

Farabaugh is no stranger to this honor. A pharmacist with three children, two of whom graduated from TPSD and one who currently attends Lawhon Elementary, was named the TPSD Parent of the Year in 2015 (ECEC) and 2020 (Lawhon). In 2015, she also received the District I honors.

“Parental involvement is critical to the success of our public schools in Tupelo, and it certainly takes a group effort,” Farabaugh said. “My focus this year at Lawhon was to try to reach every parent any way we could. We have more activity on our Groupme, and our email database was significantly increased. I also wanted our brand-new principal and assistant principal to feel supported and to know they could always count on us.

“Additionally, through PTO's fundraising efforts, we were able to start saving for large outside projects, such as playground equipment and campus enhancements at Lawhon.

But, at the root of all my thoughts is that every child in Mississippi deserves an excellent education. Our schools are better with parental engagement.”

Farabaugh embodies what advocating for public schools is about and takes the role of being involved to the next level.

A 1988 graduate of THS, she has been instrumental in many fundraising campaigns. A 2012 graduate of the Parent Leadership Institute, she works closely with legislators regarding educational issues and the impact it has had on the district. She served on the CREATE Tupelo School Bond Issue advisory board committee and has written and received several grants for arts integration.

In addition to her community involvement with the local clothes closet, Calvary Baptist Church, where she teaches Sunday school, and the Junior Auxiliary, where she helped raise \$180,000 to aid children in Tupelo and Lee Country.

“Kate represents the very best as a Mississippian,” Mississippi Senator Chad McMahan said. “She is committed to public education as a pathway to a bigger, better and brighter Mississippi.”

She enjoys planning special events for teachers at Lawhon because to her, teachers are the heart of the school, and every single day they should be celebrated.

“Kate is simply awesome,” Lawhon principal Ian Shumpert said. “She is always willing and ready to go the extra mile for the Lawhon Family. She is our golden nugget.”

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