



National Lieutenant Governors Association

CONTACT: Kellie Rittershausen, NLGA Executive Director
859-283-1400 I kritters@nlga.us

Kentucky Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman Recognized Nationally as 2026 Winner of the "STEM Spark Award" by the National Lieutenant Governors Association

July 23, 2026, Denver, CO – Kentucky Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman was recognized today as the 2026 winner of the "STEM Spark Award," presented by the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) in partnership with Sapphire Gas Solutions. The award is presented annually to a lieutenant governor or second-in-command in state government who demonstrates a commitment to support, promote, and/or advance the opportunities for learning or engaging in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in education, skill training, and/or the workforce.

"I am honored to receive the STEM Spark Award," said Lt. Governor Coleman. "I know from my time in the classroom that education is the key to providing transformational change for our families. Kentucky is a world leader in the manufacturing and aerospace sectors. STEM education prepares Kentucky students for these jobs of the future. Thank you to NLGA and Sapphire Gas Solutions for your commitment to our students."

As a former educator and coach, Lt. Governor Coleman has been a staunch advocate for educational opportunities and supports for students, including efforts to improve student mental health access and expanded access to tools to earn a GED. Lt. Governor Coleman created the state's first "Ag Education Week" in Kentucky, partnering bipartisanly with the Commissioners of Agriculture and Education to provide hands-on learning opportunities that bring agriculture, food, and learning into curriculum. Lt. Governor Coleman has also led on statewide efforts to increase student mental health resources, access to broadband, expand skills and workforce training, and strengthen the environment for STEM innovation and opportunity through economic growth and development.

"Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman understands that the future of energy depends not only on technology, but on developing the workforce that will power it," said Scott Johns, CCO, Sapphire Gas Solutions. "At Sapphire Gas Solutions, we work every day at the intersection of energy, infrastructure, and economic development. We understand that the future of American energy depends not only on technology and resources, but on investing in people and preparing the next generation. Through Lt. Governor Coleman's support of STEM education and renewable energy initiatives, she has demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of that connection."

The NLGA STEM Spark Award was presented to Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman on July 23, 2026, at the Annual Meeting of the NLGA in Denver, Colorado.

#