Named and founded in memory of one of Murray’s outstanding community leaders – including 22 years of service on the Murray Board of Education – Laura Baker was an important advocate of professional development among Murray educators. Though she passed away in 2011, her legacy for love of learning continues in the recipients of the annual grants given in her name. These awards are administered annually through the Murray Education Foundation.

2020-21 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Breanna Tomlinson, Murray High School Special Education
Michelle Bouwman, Parkside Elementary School Social
Cyndi Ralson, Liberty Elementary/Hillcrest Social Work
Lidia Delgado, Parkside Elementary Teacher
Sierra Marsh, Grant Elementary Social Work
Claire Meier, District Office Technology Coach
Geri Smith, District Office Technology Coach
Mike Roberts, Hillcrest Jr. High Instructional Coach
Melia Fidel, Murray High School Media Center
Amber Rydalch, Murray High School Instructional Coach
Lora Bonham, Parkside Elementary Social Work
Catherine Bigalow, Murray School District

2019-20 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Cara Cerise, Parkside Elementary
Michelle Bouwman, Parkside Elementary
Katie Jepson, Murray High School

2018-19 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Geri Smith, MCSD Elementary Technology Coach
Lynn Gutzwiller, MCSD Secondary Technology Coach

2017-18 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Jennie LaFortune, MHS English Teacher
Patti McConnell, Riverview Computer Teacher

2016-17 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Deb Ashton, DO Coordinator/Court Liaison Prevention Prog.
Zachary Giddings, MHS Instrumental Music Instructor

2015-16 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Laurel Brown, Speech Language Pathologist & Adult Transition
Amber Rydalch, MHS Instructional Coach

2014-15 Laura Baker Professional Learning Grants
Shawn Johnson, Horizon Elementary School Psychologist
Heather Wihongi, Riverview JH English Teacher