



### **Local Funeral Director Participates In National Mentoring Program**

Brookfield, Wis. – Christie R. Keen of Upton-Hay Funeral Home, LLC in Celina, TN, was one of 50 funeral directors nationwide selected to participate in the National Funeral Directors Association’s (NFDA) Meet the Mentors program.

Meet the Mentors, which took place March 12-14 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta, Ga., brought young funeral professionals together to learn from three of the country’s leading funeral directors and network with like-minded peers. During the program, each mentor gave a presentation in which they shared lessons they have learned about how to build a successful and fulfilling career in funeral service.

Christie is a graduate of John A. Gupton College in Nashville, TN. She graduated in December of 2014 with an Associates of Arts Degree and passed the National Board Examination in January 2015. She completed her apprenticeship in early 2015 and has become a licensed Tennessee Funeral Director and Embalmer. After receiving her licenses in Tennessee, Christie went on to acquire her Kentucky Funeral Director and Embalmer licenses in 2015.

Christie also became a Tennessee licensed insurance agent in 2013, after taking the required courses at Kaplan University in Nashville. She has since become a licensed Preneed Sales Agent within the state of Tennessee.

“I found being selected to attend the NFDA’s ‘Meeting the Mentors’ conference very exhilarating. I was able to join forces with other professionals from across the nation to compare what we shared in common and find ways to make those things that weren’t so common to our geographical area more commonplace. All collaborations were in an effort to enable us to better serve those families who choose to call upon us during their most difficult times” said Christie Keen.

Jimmy R. Hay, Owner/Manager of Upton-Hay Funeral Home added, “We are very proud of Christie and all her accomplishments. It was quite the honor for her to have been the only person selected from Tennessee to attend the conference and for her to be representing not only Upton-Hay Funeral Home but Clay County. I’m confident she served us well.”

Meet the Mentors has been wholly funded by the Funeral Service Foundation since the program’s inception in 2011.

More information about the NFDA Meet the Mentors program can be found on the NFDA website, [www.nfda.org/mentors](http://www.nfda.org/mentors).

### **About Upton-Hay Funeral Home, LLC**

Upton-Hay Funeral Home is one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in Clay County. The funeral home is rich with history and a lasting landmark within the community. Even though many things have changed over the years, one thing that has not changed is our continuing commitment of service to the families in Clay and surrounding counties.

As death-care professionals, every day that we come to work we have the opportunity to make important differences in people’s lives. We promise that your trust in us will never be taken for granted.

### **About NFDA**

NFDA is the world’s leading and largest funeral service association, serving 19,700 individual members who represent more than 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.nfda.org](http://www.nfda.org).