



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2017

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Honorees Announced

Chandler View Elementary and Omaha Northwest Magnet High School in Omaha honored

The U.S. Department of Education today released the names of the 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees. Across the country, 45 schools, nine districts, and nine postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education. A state education official was also honored for her efforts to advance school sustainability in the State of Georgia.

The Green Ribbon Schools Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs, Improving Health and Wellness, Offering Effective Sustainability Education

"I commend each school, district, and institution of higher education for their efforts to create a healthy learning environment for students, faculty and staff," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. "These schools have done exemplary work to help prepare the rising generation for the careers and challenges of the 21st Century."

The honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 28 states and the Department of Defense Department of Education Activity. The selectees include 39 public schools, including five magnet schools and one charter school, as well as six nonpublic schools. Forty-four percent of the 2017 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body and 14 percent are rural. The postsecondary honorees include three career and technical and community colleges.

Chandler View Elementary and Omaha Northwest Magnet High School in Omaha were both named honorees.

Chandler View Elementary has implemented school wide programs as well as club and grade-level initiatives such as “Just take two, thank you” for paper towels and “1,2,3...That’s enough for me” at the drinking fountains. Students manage the recycling efforts under titles such as Trash Auditor and Green Schools Manager. The Ecology Club plays a vital role in reducing the school’s environmental footprint.

Many students at Omaha Northwest Magnet High School are involved in sustainable service learning projects, working with college students, Omaha Green Tours, landscape architects, and master gardeners. By working with college students and local professionals, Northwest students learn 21st century skills and are exposed to many career paths in environmental studies.

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, as well as their nomination packages, can be found [here](#). A report with highlights on the 63 honorees is attached and can be found [here](#). More information on the federal recognition award can be found [here](#).

Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found [here](#).

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