

BRAVO!



December 2010

Kansas students, educators and schools are among the best in the nation and we want to salute their accomplishments. The Communications Office at the Kansas State Department of Education will regularly publish a list of happenings in Kansas schools. If you know of a specific award garnered by students, teachers, programs, schools, or districts, please let us know so that it may be included in our publication. Although it may not be possible to include all awards sent to us, we offer our congratulations and best wishes to the students and educators in our state.

Kathy Toelkes, Director
Communications and Recognition Programs

Linda Nelson-Boya, a painting and jewelry teacher at **Shawnee Heights High School**, was named the **2010 Kansas Art Educator of the Year**. This award is given each year by the **Kansas Art Education Association**. Nelson-Boya has been teaching for 29 years, 17 of which have been at Shawnee Heights. Congratulations!

Topeka Hope Street Academy students got a taste of the real world in November when they took part in **Reality U**, an exercise in preparing students for an employable future. Combining future plans with current grade-point average, students were given an adult scenario, complete with marital status, number of kids, occupation and net monthly income. Reality U is a **dropout prevention program** that allows students to put into perspective the importance of education.

Congratulations to **Shyla Mason**, a sophomore at **Bonner Springs High School**, who is the first female in district history to make the **wrestling team!** Her determination to make the team paid off last month when her request was approved by the district board. Good luck, Shyla!

Ten girls from **Tecumseh South Elementary School** in the **Shawnee Heights** school district participated in a 10-week after-school program designed to foster self-esteem and healthy habits. The **YMCA's Girls on the Run program** helps girls train for a 5K running and walking event while it increases self-confidence through encouragement. Girls at **Elmont Elementary** in the **Seaman** school district and **Jay Shideler Elementary** in the **Auburn-Washburn** school district are also participating in the program. Great work, girls!

We'd love to hear what your students and faculty are achieving! Please send submissions to:

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The students at **Reno Valley Middle School** proved to be Santa's little helpers this year as they collected donations and toys for the nearly 40 children residents of **New Beginnings**. Providing more than **150 wrapped toys**, Reno Valley helped make this year the most fruitful Christmas the shelter has seen in 20 years!

BRAVO!

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Schools all across Kansas are “going green.” As environmental issues continue to be a global concern, these schools are stepping up and finding eco-friendly ways to improve their buildings.

- Students at **Delaware Ridge Elementary School** have put into place a **used supply bin** where school supplies that are still in useable condition can be taken by students free of charge rather than be thrown away.
- **Service Valley Charter Academy** students receive hands-on lessons in renewable energy thanks to the **wind turbine** that was recently installed. Besides bringing science and math to life, the turbine is able to greatly reduce the school’s energy costs.
- **Southeast of Saline School** earned the **Energy Efficiency Leader in Education Award** from **Trane** for its efforts in reducing the school’s energy use. Energy-efficient upgrades throughout the school are projected to cut **21 percent from the district’s energy bill, saving \$80,000 annually**.
- **Smoky Valley High School** just acquired its own **wind turbine** thanks to **Kansas State University’s Wind for Schools program**. Though the turbine is capable of generating power, the school mostly uses it to educate students of the potential Kansas has for wind energy.
- **Olathe South High School** earned the **Environmental Excellence School of the Year Award** from **Bridging the Gap**. Starting with a paper recycling program, Olathe South’s environmental efforts have expanded to include compostable lunch trays, plastic bottle recycling and a carpool parking lot. More recently, the students conducted a lighting survey which resulted in **\$12,000 in annual savings by updating lighting fixtures**.

Sublette Elementary School was recently named a **silver award winner** by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** as part of the **2010 Healthier U.S. School Challenge**, honoring elementary schools throughout the nation with the healthiest food programs. In addition, Sublette Elementary was also named by *Health* magazine as one of the five healthiest elementary schools in the nation!

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