



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.

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September 2009



Congratulations **Blue Valley West** biology teacher **Ken Bingman** for being inducted into the **National Teachers Hall of Fame!** During his tenure, Bingman has received several honors including a Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Science, and has taught science in China, the former Soviet Union, Fiji, Australia and Tanzania. Bingman is the seventh teacher from Kansas to be inducted into the National Hall of Fame.

Carolyn Roederer and **Trent Rhodes** of **Haven High School** placed 4th out of 88 group documentary projects at the **National History Day Competition** in Washington, D.C. Their presentation entitled "Ahead of His Time: J.M. Keynes and His Economic Legacy" earned them The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute 20th Century Political History Prize. Great job, Carolyn and Trent!

Washburn Rural senior **Sam Ho** received **perfect scores on both the ACT and SAT!** Ho was one of only nine college-bound students in Kansas and one of 268 in the United States and abroad to achieve a perfect score on the ACT. In the future, he plans to major in chemical engineering.

A **Leavenworth High School** group placed second in a **national Technology Student Association competition.** **Kaitly Schwartz, Derek Schwartz, Justin Verde** and **Lilly Akins** placed in a medical technology event. Leavenworth representatives also recently placed in the top 10 in two other events during the TSA national conference in Denver.

Michelle Kretzmeier, Eileen Chase, Seth Snavely, Alex Piazza and **Ryan Moran** of **Iola High School** and **Kenna McWhirter** of **Moran High School** were recently awarded **Helen Gates Whitehead Trust Scholarships.** Each scholarship is valued at \$8,000. The Whitehead Scholarship is available to Allen County graduating seniors pursuing higher education in either graphic arts, fine arts or home economics.

Four students from **Labette County High School** and **North Central Kansas Technical College** placed at the **SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference** in Kansas City, Mo. **Brian Robison, Caleb Albers, Ben Kelly,** and **Ryan Dowty** all earned the right to represent Kansas at the national conference by winning the state championship earlier this year. Robison scored 14th in the nation in electronics, Albers and Kelly placed 11th in the nation in mechatronics, David Warren placed 24th in the nation in electronics technology, and Dowty was awarded a certificate in electronics applications. The 2009 SkillsUSA national championship was the largest in its 45-year history with more than 5,000 contestants competing in 91 contests.

Bel Aire homeschooled first-grader **Rachel Lawton** was one of 12 national grand prize winners for **Reading Rainbow's 15th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest**. Rachel's book, "The Colorful Spider," received top honors in the kindergarten division of the contest. Her book is available to view on the Reading Rainbow web site and will be published in an anthology of contest entries. Congratulations, Rachel!

Students, teachers and faculty of **Newton High School** are doing their share to help in the school's **new recycling program!** Each classroom is outfitted with blue recycling bins for paper, and the cafeteria has bins available for recycling cardboard, cans and bottles. In addition to saving money on trash pickup costs, students are also learning valuable lessons in cutting back on waste in order to help the environment.

Irving Elementary 3rd and 4th graders got a jump on the new school year with a **summer math challenge**. Each student brought home a packet of math problems to work on over the summer, and those students returning with a completed packet received a goodie bag. Students excelling in the challenge (85% or more correct) were entered to win a Walmart gift card. Fourth-grader **Calee Belair** took home the grand prize. Keep up the great work!

Congratulations **Broken Arrow School** in Lawrence, **Oakley Elementary School** in Oakley, **Phillipsburg Elementary School** in Phillipsburg, **Robinson Elementary School** in Augusta and **Rock Creek Junior and Senior High School** in Rock Creek for being recognized by the U.S. Education Department as No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools. Nationally, 264 public and 50 private schools will be honored at an awards ceremony in November in Washington, D.C.

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