KANSAS EDUCATION SHINES

December, 2009

Focus on students...

- Kansas students continue to top the national average composite score for reading and mathematics on the ACT assessment. In 2009, the ACT national average composite score was 21.1, unchanged from the previous year. Still, Kansas students continued to perform better with an average composite score of 21.9. With 74% of all graduating seniors in Kansas taking the ACT, Kansas ranks in the top 20% in participation. Eight Kansas students scored a perfect 36 on the ACT. *ACT, Inc.*
- Kansas students participating in the SAT assessment posted a mean score of 581 on critical reading, compared to the national average of 501. In mathematics, the mean score for Kansas students was 589, compared to the national mean score of 515. In writing, Kansas students posted a mean score of 564 in this category, far exceeding the national mean writing score of 493. Four Kansas students scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT. *The College Board*.
- More Kansas students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2008, showing a 13% increase from last year. Additionally, 9.4% more exams received grades of 3 or higher on a 5 point scale, which potentially qualified students for credit, advanced placement, or both, at colleges and universities worldwide. Yuzhou Li of Shawnee Mission East High and Lichy Han of Blue Valley West received AP State Scholar Awards for their outstanding performance on the Advanced Placement Program (APO) Examinations. *The College Board*.
- In Kansas, 86.8% of the 2007-08 graduating seniors went on to postsecondary education. *KSDE,KIDS*.
- On the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 89% of Kansas 4th graders scored basic or above in mathematics, and 79% of 8th graders scored basic or above. The 2009 NAEP reading results will not be released until 2010. In 2007, Kansas 4th graders ranked sixth in the nation with 72% of students tested scoring basic or above; and 8th graders ranked sixth in the nation with 81% of students tested scoring at basic or above.

  National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)
- Matthew Heck of Wichita and Katie Vahle of Mission Hills were awarded 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community awards for their extraordinary volunteer work. Four other Kansas students were named Distinguished Finalists.

Focus on schools...

- Attendance in Kansas public schools remains high, with an average daily attendance rate of 94.9%. *KSDE, Report Card*
- Graduation rates in Kansas are a reported 89.5% of Kansas students graduating, according to NCLB data. *ACT, Inc*.
- Eighty-eight percent of all Kansas public schools made AYP in the 2008-09 school year, with 89.2% of Title 1 schools making AYP. Eighty-nine percent of districts made AYP. Eighty-eight percent of Kansas's Title 1 districts made AYP under the NCLB legislation definition. *KSDE, Report Card*
- Five Kansas schools received the 2009 NCLB-Blue Ribbon School Award, joining 29 other Kansas schools which have been named since 2003. They are as follows: Broken Arrow Elementary School, USD 497 Lawrence; Oakley Elementary School, USD 274 Oakley; Phillipsburg Elementary School, USD 325 Phillipsburg; Robinson Elementary School, USD 402 Augusta; and Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School, USD 323 Rock Creek. They were honored in November in Washington DC. *www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html*
- Five Kansas schools were nominated for the 2010 NCLB-Blue Ribbon School Award. Recipients will be named in September 2010.
- Forty-one Kansas elementary schools, 12 middle/junior high schools, and 17 high schools were part of the fourth annual Governor's Achievement Awards, honoring the top performing schools in the state. *KSDE, Press Releases*
- One hundred twenty-three Certificates of Merit were presented to 59 Kansas public school districts as part of the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force Challenge Awards. *KSDE, Press Releases*
- Kansas recognized schools for achieving the Standard of Excellence on the 2008-2009 state assessments. In total, 2,676 certificates in mathematics and 3,216 certificates in reading were awarded.

Focus on teachers and administrators...

- In the 2008-09 school year, 93.4% of Kansas teachers were fully licensed in their assigned subject area, serving the children of Kansas, and 88.8% were highly qualified according to the No Child Left Behind legislation. Highly qualified teachers are fully licensed and have demonstrated depth of content in the area to which they are assigned. *KSDE, Teacher Education & Licensure Team.*
- Karen M. Tritt, a foreign language teacher at Shawnee Mission West High School, USD 512 Shawnee Mission is the 2010 Kansas Teacher of the Year.
- In 2008, 297 Kansas educators were certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Twenty-seven new teachers received certification in 2008.
- Dr. Robert Winter, Superintendent of Salina USD 305, was named the 2010 Superintendent of the Year by the Kansas Association of School Administrators.
- Mr. Steve Jameson, Principal at Columbus High School, Columbus USD 493, was named the 2009 MetLife Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals.
- Mr. Jerry Meier, Principal at Washburn Rural Middle School, Auburn Washburn USD 437, was named the 2009 Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators.
- Mr. Patrick Duffy, Principal at Hesston Elementary School, Hesston USD 460, was named the 2009 Kansas Distinguished Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals.
- DeAnn Swofford, science teacher at Pioneer Ridge Middle School, Gardner-Edgerton USD 231, and Sherry Helus, mathematics teacher at Wamego West Elementary School, Wamego USD 320 were named 2008 Presidential Awards National Finalists.
- Thirty-two beginning educators from around the state were named 2009 Kansas Horizon Award recipients. *KSDE, Press Releases*
- Bradley Nicks, a mathematics teacher at Shawnee Heights High School, USD 450, was named the 2009 Milken Family Foundation National Educator.