

BRAVO!



June 2011

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

Four Kansas students have been named **2011 U.S. Presidential Scholars**. The program recognizes the nation's most distinguished graduating seniors, as well as those who have demonstrated exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. This year's winners are **Daniel D. Depew** of **Northwest High School** in Wichita, **Victoria G. Gilman** of **Lawrence Free State High School**, **Rex A. Tai** of **Blue Valley North High School**, and **Samuel M. Teeter** of **Topeka High School**. For their achievements, these students will travel to Washington, D.C. to be honored in a White House sponsored ceremony where they will receive Presidential Scholars medallions.

Nickerson High School earned the **LifeSmarts national championship title** at this year's tournament in Universal City, California. LifeSmarts is an educational program sponsored by the National Consumers League designed to help students develop consumer knowledge. The four-student team, comprised of **Evan Wilson**, **Sarah Slifer**, **Jesse Porter** and **Cami Roth**, became the first group from Kansas to win a national title in the competition.

Jeffrey Hanson, a junior at **Horizon Academy** in Roeland Park, was named one of **America's top 10 youth volunteers for 2011** in a ceremony at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as part of the national **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** for outstanding volunteer service. Selected from a field of more than 29,000 participants across the country, Jeffrey was awarded for raising over \$225,000 for various charities over the past five years by selling and donating original paintings, despite having a genetic condition causing severe loss of vision.

Katherine Keeling of **Broadmoor Technical Center** in Kansas City, KS, was named the **Best Teen Chef in Kansas City** from the local branch of Art Institutes (AI) International. The honor was accompanied by a \$5,000 scholarship. This award continues a nine-year streak at Broadmoor for awards from AI. Congratulations!

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

Anne Gilmore
aegilmore@ksde.org
785-296-4910
785-296-7933 (fax)

www.ksde.org

BRAVO!

(continued)

Erie High Charter School became the only **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold high school** in the state after turning an environmental disaster into an educational and environmental opportunity. Following a devastating flood in 2007, the school district incorporated the most advanced green building techniques available in order to provide a less expensive, healthier learning environment for students. The school also integrated project-based learning, offering students the ability to monitor energy usage as well as find solutions to environmental issues. Congratulations!

Goddard High School recently received a **President's Environmental Youth Award** for its outdoor wildlife learning site. Students helped to restore 4,000 square feet of native grasses, established a garden with native plants and built benches and sculptures to display along the nature trail. An Environmental Protection Agency official presented the award to the school for promoting awareness of natural resources and for their community involvement.

Fifteen students from **Irving Elementary School** in north Wichita earned new bikes as a reward for reading at least 1 million words this school year as part of the school's **Accelerated Reader program**. The bikes were donated from a local law firm and proved to be a great incentive for students. **Alex Lopez, Hector Garcia, Miguel Sanchez, Daniel Jurado, Julian Ibarra, David Solis, Miranda Pineda, Erika Gonzalez, Yasmine Perez, Elisa Uriarte, Giselle Guerrero, Sarah Arguelles, Anabel Solis and Kasondra Bakker** all hit the 1 million word mark, and **Leslye Paz** became the first student in the school's history to read 2 million words in one school year!

Two dozen **kindergartners from Hillcrest Elementary** in Lawrence who are in the **Boys and Girls Club** after-school program lent a helping hand to the American Red Cross this past April by selling lemonade and using the **proceeds to boost relief efforts in Japan**. The lemonade was even served in plastic cups decorated by the students as part of their chosen "torch project," the club's name for a community-service effort. Great idea!

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

*The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:
KSDE General Counsel, 120 SE 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66612, 785-296-3201*