

Advance Kansas

Class of XII Graduate

Terrell Davis, Executive Dir. of Public Affairs

Alliance for Excellent Education

Future Ready Schools

2020 Year in Review Video

Rob Dickson, WPS CIO

High School Soup Blog (Sept. 30, 2020)

[Wichita Public Schools Accelerates Shift to Personalized Learning During COVID-19](#)

Rob Dickson, Dyane Smokorowski

Council of Great City Schools

Green-Garner Award 2020

Dr. Alicia Thompson, Finalist

Urban Educator Newsletter

[WPS Family Help Centers](#) (Sept 2020 edition)

District Administration

5 Ways to build and retain a substitute teacher pool

WPS featured, [Aug. 19, 2020](#)

Education Week

Digital Education Blog

[How to Bring 'Surprise and Delight' to Virtual Teacher Training During COVID-19](#)

Dyane Smokorowski (Nov 18, 2020 edition)

In-Person or Remote Learning: How the Biggest City School Districts Are Operating

[WPS included](#) with other Council of Great City Schools (Feb. 8, 2021; March 15, 2021)

Jake Gill

Country Music Teacher Classroom Initiative Recipients 2020

- Erin Buster, Franklin Elementary Teacher
- Sandra Heaton, Black Elementary Teacher

Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (KAHPERD)

High School PE Teacher of the Year 2020

Erin Carney, South High School

Middle School PE Teacher of the Year 2020

Bill Schrant, Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet

Young Professional of the Year Award 2020

Emily Maier, West High School

Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

Art Newcomer Promising Athletic Director 2021

Tony Douglas, North High School

Kansas Learning Center for Health

Health Educator of the Year

Diane Smith, Physical Education and Human Growth & Development Curriculum Coach.

Kansas State Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship

High School Entrepreneur Educator of the Year 2021

Shanna Zimmerman, East High School

Kansas State Department of Education

Dr. Watkins #DedicateAnApple campaign

- Cheryl Witt, Law/History Teacher, Northeast Magnet
- Laura Jonas, 4th-Grade Teacher, Earhart Environmental Magnet.

KCUR 89.3 | NPR Kansas City

Kansas Schools Can Fight Covid-19 With Fresh Air, But It’s Unclear How Many Even Track Ventilation

Luke Newman interviewed; [WPS spotlighted](#)

Kidd Kraddick Morning Show

Overachieving Teacher (Feb. 28, 2021)

Lawna Kurtyka, East High

LPR Publications & Education Dive

COVID-19 education trends set to persist post-pandemic (10/19/2020)

[Parent University helps parents with remote learning](#)
Heath Peine

5 School Leaders’ expert advice for aspiring administrators (10/1/2020)

[Heath Peine](#)

Microsoft

Microsoft Showcase School 2021

Education Imagine Academy is the only school in Kansas and the first virtual program anywhere to earn the distinction.

Showcase Schools – Incubator Path 2020

Education Imagine Academy

Microsoft Customer Service Story – Online Feature Story (Nov. 12, 2020)

[How Wichita Public Schools are using the Microsoft ecosystem to thrive in difficult times](#)

MS. Magazine

Fall 2020 Edition – ‘13 Going on Empowered!’

Mayberry Cultural/Fine Arts Magnet Middle School
Feature on women and gender studies courses

National Association of Music Merchants

Best Communities in Music Education

WPS was recognized for the 5th time in the last 8 years (2013, 2014, 2016, 2020 and 2021)

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

National School Public Relations Association

National School Public Relations Association

Revelations Evangelistic Ministry, Inc.

Southwestern College

US Department of Education

US News & World Report

National Board Certification 2020

- Cody Dickman, counselor, South High School
- Benjamin Stauble, special education teacher, Mueller Magnet Elementary School

**PRincipal Communicator – September 2020
Leadership Leverage Through Intentional Communication – Article published**

Dr. Alicia Thompson

Publications and Digital Media Awards 2020

- Future Forward Branding, Branding/Image Package
- WPS Budget at a Glance, Budget Publication
- WPS Budget Resources Infographic, Infographic
- Future Ready – WPS Strategic Plan Online, Internet Website
- WPS Choices and Opportunities Guide, Marketing Publication
- Kindergarten Ready! Newsletter, Marketing Publication

NSPRA News This Week – Sept. 15, 2020

Chrissie Barker, White Elementary, was featured for using stuffed animals in remote classroom

The NSPRA Network – March 10, 2021

WPS Gold Medallion Award-winning entry “Every Student Future Ready” featured as the edition’s success story.

The NSPRA Network – April 14, 2021

Trend Tracker – Strategic Communication with Community Partners Brings Greater Rewards
Suzy Finn, Strategic Communications

Improving Race Relations in Kansas Government Award 2021

Dr. Alicia Thompson, superintendent

Teacher of Promise 2020

Mason McDowell

National Blue Ribbon School 2020

Bostic Traditional Magnet Elementary School

Best High Schools in Kansas Report

Northeast Magnet High School ranked 10th
East High School ranked 26th

Verizon

Verizon Innovative Learning Initiative Grant

Twelve middle schools will participate in this initiative for four years beginning 2021-22. Schools include Brooks, Coleman, Curtis, Hadley, Hamilton, Jardine, Marshal, Mayberry, Mead, Pleasant Valley, Robinson and Truesdell.

W / A Community of Young Professionals

Leadership Academy

Kayla Pennick, selected for Class of 2021

Wichita Business Journal

Diversity & Inclusion Award 2020

- Wichita Public Schools
- William Polite, Equity, Diversity & Accountability

Women Who Lead – Business 2020

Dr. Alicia Thompson, Superintendent

Women Who Lead – Marketing 2020

Wendy Johnson, Strategic Communications

Best Places to Work 2020

South High School

What 2020 Taught Us

William Polite was selected as a community leader to reflect on 2020 as part of their feature on career & workplace, [Dec. 31, 2020](#).

Wichita Business Journal

WBJ Influencers 2020

Suzy Finn, Strategic Communications

WBJ Special Report: Education (April 16, 2021)

EI Academy spotlighted with quotes from Principal Amanda Young.

Wichita/Sedgwick County Arts Council

On behalf of the Wichita Arts Council, Shawn Chastain, WPS Fine Arts Executive Coordinator accepted the National Arts & Humanities Month Proclamation issued by the Sedgwick County Commission. (Oct. 2020)

Wichita State University

College of Applied Studies Hall of Fame Inductee 2020

Dr. Alicia Thompson

MSW Field Instructor of the Year 2020

Casey Speer, Kelly Elementary School

If you are aware of other honors or recognitions received by WPS employees, schools or departments, please contact WPS Strategic Communications, (316) 973-4515.