

WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

2019-20 SUMMARY

7/1/20

Association of School Business Officials International

Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force

Council of Great City Schools

District Administration

Emporia State University

Friends University

Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network Kansas

Give a Note Foundation

Government Finance Officers Association

Hamilton Education Program

Excellence in Financial Reporting
Wichita Public Schools, Financial Services

Challenge Awards 2019

- Allison Traditional Magnet Middle School
- Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet School
- Jardine Technology Middle Magnet School
- McLean Science/Tech Magnet Elementary School
- Robinson Middle School
- Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet School

Green-Garner Award Finalist 2019
Sheril Logan, President WPS Board of Education

National Conference Presenters 2019

- Tiffinie Irving Deputy Superintendent
- Fabian Armendariz, Division Director of Operations

Urban Educator (May 2020)

Extraordinary Employees - William Polite

Urban Educator (Sept. 2019)

WPS Standards-Referenced Grading launch

Website Feature

BAASE profiled as part of their report on Males of Color

Districts of Distinction 2019-20

Aviation Pathway, CTE Category

Kansas Master Teacher Award 2020

Eunice Izazaga, Second Grade Teacher, Pleasant Valley Elementary

2020 Fellowship Winner

Sunny Overholt, Art Teacher, Northwest High School

Educator of the Year 2020

Jeff Freund, Principal

Music Education Innovator Award 2020

Semifinalist: Logan Caywood, Jardine Middle School

Award for Best Practices in School Budgeting

WPS Financial Services - FY2019 CAFR

Outstanding Performance Winner - Online National Competition

Kim Hughes, Social Studies Teacher, Mayberry Middle School and three students

Kansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance

KASCD Curriculum Leader Spotlight
Dr. Andi Giesen
Administrators of the Year
Kristina Bowyer, Spaght Elementary Principal
Elementary P.E. Teacher of the Year
Blake Taylor, Lawrence Elementary
High School P.E. Teacher of the Year
Kirsten Zenner, Northwest High School
Undergraduate Future Professional of the Year
Tanner Stenzel, Isely

Kansas Association of School Boards

Advanced Advocacy Training Institute Inaugural Class
Terrell Davis, Executive Director of Public Affairs

Kansas Association of School Librarians

President's Distinguished Library Media Specialist Award 2019
Laurie Smith, Instructional Support Teacher, Library Media Services
Elected 2nd Vice-President
Gail Becker, Supervisor of Library Media Services

Kansas Association of Teachers of English

Outstanding High School English Teacher 2019-20
Melissa Buteyn, Northwest High School

Kansas Bandmasters Association

Outstanding Young Band Director 2020
Ashten Anderson, Robinson Middle School

Kansas Collegiate Media

Jackie Engel Award 2020
Jeffrey Welch, South High School Journalism

Kansas High School Activities Association

30 Years of Service Award
Soccer Official for boys and girls state finals.
Klaus Kollmai, Hearing Officer

Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

Art Newcomer Promising Athletic Director 2020
Kyle Haight, South High School

Kansas Music Educators Association

SCKMEA Middle School Teacher of the Year 2020
Carla Chapman, Mayberry Magnet
SCKMEA High School Teacher of the Year 2020
Verlinda Stone, South High School

Kansas School Public Relations Association

Publications Contest Certificate of Excellence
Dream Keepers (project/special program)
Publications Contest Certificate of Merit
Stay, Listen, Get Help (video)

Kansas State Department of Education

Kansas Horizon Award

Chasmyn Lindeman-Thimesch, Fifth-grade teacher, Cloud Elementary School

Kansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists

- Marnie Baxter, Second-grade teacher, McCollom Elementary School
- Ann Burgett, English teacher, Northwest High School

WPS Breakfast Programs

Recognized by KSDE for outstanding practices in Child Nutrition and Wellness (Aug. 2019)

Kansas World Language Association

Spanish Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Parga, North High School

Magnet Schools of America

Magnet Schools of Distinction 2020

- McLean Science/Technology Magnet
- Allison Traditional Magnet
- Earhart Environmental Magnet

Region VI Principal of the Year Award

Vanessa Martinez, Horace Mann Magnet

NAACP Wichita Branch

HT Sims Excellence in Education 2019

William Polite, Director of Equity, Diversity & Accountability

NAMM Foundation

Best Communities for Music Education 2020

Wichita Public Schools

National School Public Relations Association

NSPRA This Week Newsletter

Superintendents to Watch – Dr. Thompson 11/19

Gold Medallion Award

Every Student Future Ready: Communicating a New Strategic Plan

National Science Foundation (NSF) / White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Stephen Smith, Technology Education Teacher, Allison Middle School

Special Ed Connection

Star Special Ed Director (June 2020)

Heath Peine, Student Support Services profiled

Splurge Magazine

Nice List 2019

Lan Huynh, Third-grade teacher, Christa McAuliffe Academy

Terrific Teachers (May 2020)

Catherine Klunder, Fifth-grade teacher, Harry Street

Symphony in the Flint Hills

Prairie Art Online Auction

Out of 29 accepted artists, two are from WPS.

- Marcia Scurfield, Curriculum Coach, AMAC
- Jennifer Larson, Art Teacher, Northeast Magnet

United Way of Wichita

Chairman's Circle Award

Wichita Public Schools is one of 9 companies with employees donating \$150,000 to \$999,999.

**U.S. News & World Report Rankings
(April 2020)**

VFW

Wichita Business Journal

Best High Schools in Kansas

Northeast Magnet, East High and Northwest High School were all named to the list as top schools in Kansas.

Kansas High School Teacher of the Year

Michael Alldaffer, Social Studies Teacher, West High School

Best Places to Work Finalists 2019

- Coleman Middle School, Medium category
- East High School, Large category
- South High School, Large category

Diversity & Inclusion Award 2019

- Wichita Public Schools
- Mayberry Cultural Fine Arts Magnet

Emerging Leaders 2019

- Lisa Riveros, Transportation Director
- Poncho Bustos, Principal

40-Under 40 Class of 2020

Addi Lowell, Budgeting Director

Hall of Fame HR Professional Award 2020

Shannon Krysl, Chief Human Resource Officer

Women Who Lead – Business 2020

Dr. Alicia Thompson

Women Who Lead – Education 2019

- Dr. Alicia Thompson
- Reagan Freund

Women Who Lead – Public Service

Grace Liss, Nutrition Services

Wichita Public Schools

Distinguished Classroom Teacher Awards

- **Afton Miller**, fourth-grade teacher, Harry Street Elementary - New Teacher, Elementary
- **Samuel Belsan**, social studies teacher, Coleman Middle School - New Teacher, Secondary.
- **Lisa Reeb**, kindergarten teacher, Colvin Elementary School - Primary Teacher
- **Catherine Klunder**, fifth-grade teacher, Harry Street Elementary School - Intermediate
- **Denise Van Horn**, math pre-IB teacher, Robinson Middle School - Middle School Teacher
- **Darham Rogers**, World/US History and AVID teacher, East High School - High School
- **Tiffany Peterson**, music teacher, Woodman Elementary School - Support Teacher, Elementary
- **Leigh Kasper, counselor**, Hamilton Middle School - Support Teacher, Secondary

Wichita Public Schools

Excellence in School Social Work Award 2020

Amy Pugh, Dunlap Transition Campus at Chisholm.

Wichita Public Schools

Magnet Teacher of the Year 2020

Dave Maneth, Mayberry Magnet Middle School

Wichita/Sedgwick County Arts Council

Shawn Chastain joined Sedgwick County Commissioner Lacey Cruse in presenting an Arts & Humanities Proclamation to the County Commission. (Oct. 2019)

Wichita State University

College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame Inductee 2020
Shawn Chastain, Fine Arts Executive Coordinator

W (formerly YPW)

Innovations in Business Award 2019
Fabian Armendariz, Division Director, Operations
Distinguished Young Professionals Award 2019
Suzy Finn, Strategic Partnerships/Marketing

Additional district staff were nominated for awards this spring but the sponsoring organizations have not selected award winners yet. We will update this list as results are announced.

This list does not include the hundreds of employees recognized via the Good Apple Award, Partners in Education Award (P.I.E.), Nutrition Services Awards, Education EDGE & KOCH Grant awards, and KAKE Golden Apple Award.

If you are aware of other honors or recognitions received by WPS employees, schools or departments, please contact:

*Susan Kelley-Linder
WPS Strategic Communications
Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center
903 S. Edgemoor
Wichita, KS 67218
SKLinder@usd259.net
(316) 973-4645*