U.S. Secretary of Education Names Duchesne Academy 2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education announced Wednesday that Duchesne Academy is among the 2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees.

Duchesne’s sustainability accomplishments include:

- Installing a solar panel array
- Recycling or composting 78% of all waste
- Using food grown on campus in lunches
- Earning a 91 Energy Star Rating for building efficiency

“Duchesne is committed to being a leader in school sustainability and it’s a challenge our students have embraced. I am proud that sustainability is not a novelty or separate program at Duchesne, it is how we live and learn,” said Head of School Meg Brudney.

“Our classes use less paper, we grow more of our own food, and we’re finding new ways to teach sustainable principles in our classes,” said Assistant Principal Eric Krakowski, who is the school’s Sustainability Program Coordinator.

“We believe incorporating sustainable practices into classes and activities now will empower our students to be leaders in a world increasingly aware of the need to reduce waste,” Brudney said.

Across the country, 39 schools, 11 districts, and five postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

The honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 27 states. The selectees include 28 public schools, including three magnet schools and four charter schools, as well as 11 nonpublic schools.

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, can be found here. A report with highlights on the 55 honorees can be found here. More information on the federal recognition award can be found here. Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found here.
A Note on the Award Name for Communications
ED’s award is called “U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools” and has “District Sustainability Award” and “Postsecondary Sustainability Award” categories, in addition to the original school award. It is abbreviated ED-GRS. “Green Ribbon Schools” without the “U.S. Department of Education” is not ED’s award, but instead is a separate program overseen by another organization. A selected school is a “2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School.” A selected district is a “2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee.” A selected postsecondary institution is a “2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee. There is no “National,” “Award,” or “Program” in the title. There is no apostrophe or hyphen after Education.

###

For more information contact:

Eric Krakowski
Assistant Principal
EKrakowski@DuchesneAcademy.org

Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart is an independent, Catholic, college-preparatory high school for girls in grades 9-12. Duchesne was established in Omaha, Nebraska in 1881 and is one of 24 Network of Sacred Heart Schools in the United States and Canada. We are empowering insightful, compassionate leaders with a sense of social responsibility and a lifelong drive for learning.