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Herb Kohl Educational Foundation to Recognize Principals and School Administrators

MADISON — The Herb Kohl Education Foundation has announced that after 25 years of recognizing exceptional Wisconsin students and teachers, it will soon add a new category of awards for principals and school administrators.

Beginning next year, 16 Outstanding Wisconsin Leadership awards will be presented to 12 public school and four religious and independent school principals or administrators. The awards will recognize the importance of exceptional school leaders who help provide successful school environments for students and faculty members.

Each state-level winner will receive a \$3,000 award, along with an additional \$3,000 for his or her school. Award winners will be encouraged to apply their schools' award to the continued development of talent and future leadership opportunities.

Former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, who served 24 years in the Senate, founded the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship and Fellowship Award programs in 1990. To date, the foundation has awarded a total of \$10.4 million to Wisconsin educators, students, and schools. The foundation has partnered with the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators and the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools to offer the awards for principals and school leaders.

“Wisconsin principals and school administrators provide the outstanding leadership that drives success for our students and teachers,” said Kohl. “In recognizing them, we aim to highlight their efforts and best practices for school leadership.”

“Wisconsin’s principals and school administrators work daily to provide students with valuable educational experiences that prepare kids for college and career,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Celebrating their successes and emphasizing the importance of school leadership to the strength of a school and district is critical. The Herb Kohl Foundation has been a long-standing partner in supporting excellent educators, and I am appreciative of Former U.S. Senator Herb Kohl’s continued generosity.”

Nomination forms will be available November 13 at www.awsa.org. Information about the religious and independent school award is available at www.wcris.org. The deadline for submitting nominations is December 16, 2015. Candidates will be selected in February 2016, and winners will be informed shortly thereafter. Recipients will receive their awards during award banquets in April 2016.

“As every parent knows, school quality and safety is a direct result of good leadership. By recognizing top-notch school principals and administrators we are shining a bright light on the engine of school quality,” said Sharon L. Schmeling executive director, Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools. “This most generous award from the Herb Kohl Foundation will allow us to hold up model school leaders for emulation and replication. As a result, Wisconsin’s school children will be the biggest beneficiaries of this award.”

“Now more than ever, the success of our schools is tied to the knowledge and skill of our principals and other school administrators,” said Jim Lynch, executive director of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators. “We are grateful to work with the Herb Kohl Education Foundation in recognizing Wisconsin’s outstanding educational leaders.”

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