

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1852

A Resolution congratulating and commending Columbus Unified High School for being named a 2011 MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough School.

WHEREAS, Columbus Unified High School of Columbus, Kansas, recently received recognition as a 2011 MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough School for its academic success; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Unified High School was one of only five high schools in the country to be named a Breakthrough School and was honored at the 2011 NASSP Conference, which was held in San Francisco, California, February 24 to 27, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Unified High School, and the other four high schools and five middle level schools honorees, will receive a \$5,000 grant and be featured in the National Association of Secondary School Principals' monthly magazine, *Principal Leadership*; and

WHEREAS, The MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough Schools program was established in 2007 and is funded through a generous grant provided by MetLife Foundation. The goal of the project is to identify, recognize and showcase middle level and high schools that serve large numbers of students living in poverty and are high achieving or dramatically improving student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Nominated schools must demonstrate continuous growth on state assessments over time, including graduation rate for high schools, specific efforts towards reducing the achievement gap and 40% or more students eligible for free or reduced price meals. Additional success indicators include equity of student participation in challenging courses, academic and career focused personal learning plans for all students, school community connections and leadership development and mentoring; and

WHEREAS, Columbus Unified High School was selected for its documented success and for implementing strategies aligned with the three core areas of NASSP's Breaking Ranks framework for middle level and high schools that have led to improved student achievement. These three core areas are: (1) Collaborate leadership: Professional learning communities, shared leadership and student and staff leadership development; (2) Personalization: Attention to all students, mentoring and school/community connections; and (3) Curriculum, instruction and assessment: Access to rigorous coursework for all students, differentiated instruction with multiple assessments, data-based decision making and opportunities for career development; and

WHEREAS, The superintendent of Columbus USD 493 is David Carriger. The principal of Columbus Unified High School is Steve Jameson. The interim principal and assistant principal of Columbus Unified High School is Tony Shearburn. The interim assistant principal of Columbus Unified High School is Dan Grundy: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend the administration, teachers and staff of Columbus Unified High School for being recognized as a 2011 MetLife Foundation-NASSP Breakthrough School and for their diligent work in making gains in academic achievement by providing rigorous instruction and personalizing their school to meet the needs of each and every student. We wish them and their students continued success; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send eight enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Umbarger.

Senate Resolution No. 1852 was sponsored by Senator Dwayne Umbarger.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.