

State Representatives Congratulate 2022 NBRS Awardees - Transcript

- Eric Mackey: This is Eric Mackey, the State Superintendent of Education in Alabama, and I'm very proud of our five National Blue Ribbon schools. Each of these schools has exceptional leadership. They have exceptional community engagement, and they're committed to making sure that all the children in their schools learn and achieve [00:00:30] at high levels, and that's why we are very proud of these schools. Congratulations to each of you.
- Johnny Key: I'm Johnny Key, Secretary of Education for the state of Arkansas, and Arkansas is home to the only public diamond mine in North America. And today, I want to [00:01:00] congratulate two of our Diamonds in Public Education in the state of Arkansas for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award. We're very proud of what you're doing for your kids. We're very proud of what you're doing for your communities, and you're setting a great example for the rest of the schools across the state and the nation.
- Tony Thurmond: Greetings everyone. I'm Tony Thurman. I have the pleasure of serving as California State Superintendent of [00:01:30] Public Instruction, which gives me the opportunity to work with our 10,000 schools across our beautiful state. I want to say congratulations to all of the 2022 National Blue Ribbon Award winners, and it is my honor, especially to present our 29 California Blue Ribbon schools. I know that you've all been through very difficult times during the pandemic trying to overcome many barriers that in many ways have affected student learning all across our nation, but you work through it, recognizing that our students [00:02:00] deserve to learn and will always be able to learn. I want to commend everyone who's helped to make the success happen, our teachers, our classified staff, our administrators, our students, and our parents. Congratulations on your resilience and on continue to move forward.
- Katy Anthes: Hi, I'm Katy Anthes, the Colorado Commissioner of Education, and I am so proud and honored to celebrate the 2022 [00:02:30] National Blue Ribbon Schools. This is a very high achievement and it takes a lot to reach it. I am so proud of your staff, your students, your administrators, their families, and indeed the entire community. This is a lot of hard work. And I know you don't do all of that hard work just to receive an award. You do it because you love to see the spark in a child's eyes. You do it because you want students to reach their potential. [00:03:00] Well, you are well on your way to that, and I am very proud and honored to share the work that you do with the whole state of Colorado so that we can learn from your amazing achievements. Congratulations.
- Susan Bysiewicz: Hello, I'm Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and I'm so honored to be speaking here today as we celebrate the momentous achievements of the 2022 Blue Ribbon Schools. [00:03:30] Connecticut is a state committed to education. Our public schools are consistently rated among the best in the nation, something we take great pride in. We are home to a diverse, caring, and

dedicated group of teachers and administrators, each one making Connecticut a place people are proud to call their home and eager to raise their children in. The work being done at these four schools exemplifies this dedication. Their faculties [00:04:00] embody what it is to be an educator, empowering students, and helping to close achievement gaps among student subgroups. These schools create a safe, welcoming environment so that all students can thrive and reach their full potential. I can think of no schools better suited for, and no staff more deserving of this award.

Although we have become used to this kind of excellence in Connecticut, [00:04:30] it's not something that you see every day. You have provided an outstanding example for all schools, both in Connecticut and nationwide, to strive for. Being named a Blue Ribbon School is an incredible honor and can only begin to recognize the contributions you've made to your community. At your schools, parents can rest assured their kids are getting an exceptional education and positive experience [00:05:00] alongside their friends. So, thank you to all the students, parents, teachers, faculty, administrators, and all who helped make these schools so exemplary. Congratulations, and I wish you the best of luck as you continue the school year. Thank you so much.

Tom Brady:

[00:05:30] I'm Tom Brady, the director of the Department of Defense Education activity, also known as DoDEA. We have the honor of strengthening our nation's military readiness by providing exceptional education to the 66,000 children of our military connected families. DoDEA operates 160 schools and eight school districts located in 11 foreign countries, [00:06:00] seven states, and two US territories. Our students serve their country, along with their parents, by experiencing frequent relocations, deployments, and the uncertainties of military life and the pursuit of securing our freedom. DoDEA's mission is to provide excellence in education for every student, everywhere, every day, and we are extremely proud of the work being done by our educators, and we are honored to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Richard Woods:

[00:06:30] Hello, this is Richard Woods, State School Superintendent of Georgia. Georgia's the largest state east of the Mississippi. And from the mountains to the sea, it's a beautiful place to live. We are home of peaches, peanuts, [00:07:00] and vidalia onions, the largest state park in the nation, the largest swamp in North America, the world's busiest airport, 71 streets with Peach Street in the name, and of course, the 2021 National Champion Georgia Bulldogs. Most importantly, we're home to 1.8 million public school students, and we are focused every day on expanding opportunities in preparing those students for life. That's exactly what Georgia's Blue Ribbon schools are doing. [00:07:30] Each school has worked tirelessly to create school communities where students can learn, grow, and succeed. And today, they're representing Georgia on the national stage with great distinction. I am honored to recognize the teachers, leaders, students, and families of Georgia's Blue Ribbon Schools. Congratulations. You are making all of Georgia proud.

Katie Jenner: [00:08:00] Hello, I'm Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. As Hoosiers, we are known for our location as the crossroads of America, as the home of the greatest spectacle in racing, and of course, for our love of basketball. In addition to these claims of fame, Indiana is also home [00:08:30] to some of America's top universities, as well as more than 63,000 teachers who are working daily to lift Indiana's 1.12 million students to a better life through education. Indiana Blue Ribbon schools in particular are consistently raising the bar year after year, ensuring every child has access to quality education, [00:09:00] which we know is essential to helping students reach their full potential. Congratulations to Indiana's 10 Blue Ribbon Schools. Thank you for being a shining example across the country, and first and foremost, thank you for your commitment to our students.

Jason Glass: [00:09:30] Hi, I'm Jason Glass Kentucky's Education Commissioner and Chief Learner [00:09:38]. Here in Kentucky, we're known for a few things. Maybe you know us for our bourbon, horse racing, or the commonwealth's rich tradition in college sports. One other aspect of our state that we take great pride in is our public education system. This year's Blue Ribbon Award shines a light on the dedication of school leaders, staff, teachers, families, and communities to strive for and attain excellence. [00:10:00] I congratulate and thank Kentucky's newest Blue Ribbon schools for their hard work to ensure that every student has the skills they need for a successful future. Thank you.

Sue Carnell: Greetings everyone. I am Chief Deputy Superintendent, Sue Carnell, from the Michigan Department of Education. And on behalf of our state superintendent, Dr. [00:10:30] Michael Rice, I bring you greetings from the Great Lake state, the great state of Michigan. I am happy to join in the celebration of Michigan's Blue Ribbon schools, both those recently honored and those honored in the past, and all of the schools across the country who are honored for their overall academic performance and success in closing the achievement gap. We are very proud of our students, our educators, parents and families of Michigan Blue Ribbon Schools. [00:11:00] Congratulations, and keep up the good work.

Heather Mueller: Hi, I'm Heather Mueller, Commissioner with the Minnesota Department of Education, and I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our blue ribbon schools for their achievements and their innovations. Their leadership that they have shown throughout this last year especially has inspired us all. Your educators, your staff, your school leaders represent the very best of Minnesota, and we are proud [00:11:30] of all that you have been able to accomplish on behalf of your students, your staff, and your families. On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Education and the great state of Minnesota, thank you for all that you have done, and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

Kim Benton: Hello, I'm Dr. Kim Benton, Interim State Superintendent of Education in Mississippi. I'm privileged to share with you just a few facts [00:12:00] about our beautiful state, especially how Mississippi's public education system has been thriving for students and educators alike. For more than a decade, increasing

numbers of Mississippi students have scored proficient on the national assessment of educational progress. In fact, in 2019, our students were number one in the nation for NAEP Gains. The state boast of rich history and culture, from large [00:12:30] hills and tall pines in north Mississippi to rich farmlands in the Mississippi delta to museums and historical sites in the central part of our state to our beautiful coastal towns, our southern charm is always present. We defy the stereotypes, and our schools, our students, educators, and communities continue to collaborate to achieve optimal student outcomes.

Matt Blomstedt: [00:13:00] Hi, I'm Matt Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education for the State of Nebraska. I just wanted to be able to express my congratulations to you for being selected as a Blue Ribbon school in 2022. It's a remarkable thing. We know that it takes a lot of effort to engage [00:13:30] with all of the staff across the school, all of the students across the school. And really, the reality is it's an award that recognizes all of your hard work. So once again, just congratulations to you. Congratulations for your hard work and your commitment to students and outcomes for our students that match what we know is best in Nebraska.

Kurt Steinhaus: Hi, [00:14:00] I'm Dr. Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary of Education, and I'm so proud of every one of the students, teachers, and parents across New Mexico. I'm especially proud of our Blue Ribbon schools. New Mexico is filled with a diverse population, [00:14:30] languages and cultures, and that's part of what makes our state so special. Another thing that makes our state special are our schools. And our blue ribbon schools are recognized as outstanding, and we want to take a moment to say thank you for all their hard work and appreciation.

Dawn Thompson: Congratulations New York [00:15:00] Blue Ribbon Award winners. My name is Dawn Thompson, and I'm the state liaison for the New York State Education Department. On behalf of Commissioner Rosa and P12 Deputy Commissioner Harmon, we would like to congratulate all of you. While 2022 was another challenging year, you all implemented plans to make learning happen for all of your students while successfully working on your Blue Ribbon applications. Being a Blue Ribbon Award winner is such an honor. I'm [00:15:30] thankful to the US Department of Education for allowing me the opportunity to personally congratulate you. You are all nominated as high achieving schools. You, your teachers, students, and community can now enjoy the benefits of being recognized as a Blue Ribbon school. Congratulations again. Bye.

Catherine Truitt: Hello, I'm Catherine Truitt, the North Carolina State Superintendent [00:16:00] of Public Instruction. We are proud of many things in the tar hill state, including our rich history of innovation, entrepreneurship, and agriculture. I'd like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all present today, but especially to the North Carolina Award recipients. You exemplified the best of public education in our state and your school communities are helping to pave the way to stronger schools and better student outcomes for all.

Kirsten Baesler: [00:16:30] Hello, I'm Kirsten Baesler, the North Dakota State School Superintendent. In North Dakota, we are a leading producer of the food and

energy that is essential for human life and prosperity. North Dakotans are proud of our public education system, and we have the poll results to prove it. Our Blue Ribbon schools are examples of the hard work and dedication to students and families [00:17:00] that are essential to success. We work together as a team and put our learners first. We build relationships, cultivate opportunity, and inspire growth. Congratulations to our students, teachers, administrators, and families for this fantastic honor. Thank you.

Stephanie Siddens: [00:17:30] Hello to our nation's school leaders, educators and school professionals. I am so proud to recognize the 13 Ohio schools that earned the National Blue Ribbon designation for 2022. These schools are doing incredible work for their students, families, and communities and their efforts are making a difference. These Blue Ribbon schools look at the needs of all learners and what supports are needed. [00:18:00] This honor showcases the many ways the high quality education you provide to your students and your outstanding learning communities make a difference in students' lives. From creating engaging learning experiences to providing a supportive and nurturing school environment, this accomplishment reflects your school's commitment to ensuring all students are on a path to success. You and your team should be so proud of the hard work that led to this recognition, and [00:18:30] I join you, your teachers and staff, families and communities in this celebration of your dedicated efforts. Once again, congratulations, and thank you for creating a wonderful place for students to learn and grow and for the great work you do each and every day.

Angelica Infante-Green: [00:19:00] Hello from Rhode Island, I'm Commissioner Angelica Infante-Green, and I want to say congratulations to Rhode Island's National Blue Ribbon schools. The work that you do every day for our kids is extraordinary. Thank you for your commitment to excellence, equity, and proving that we're capable of big things in little Rhodney. Thank you.

Molly Spearman: Hello, I'm Molly [00:19:30] Spearman, State Superintendent of Education in the great state of South Carolina. And from the mountains to the sea, we are so proud of all the hard work that our educators do, making sure that our students are prepared for college, career, and citizenship. Today, we're excited to celebrate with our five national Blue Ribbon winners. Congratulations, and keep up the great work.

Penny Schwinn: [00:20:00] Hi, I'm Penny Schwinn, Commissioner of Education in the great state of Tennessee, and I am thrilled to congratulate the six Tennessee schools who have received the 2022 National Blue Ribbon designation. Our teachers and our students, our school communities work so hard each and every day, so to achieve this level of success, to be recognized in this way is an incredible honor. I am so deeply proud of the work [00:20:30] of our state and these six schools in particular. Very well done.

Mike Morath: Hello, this is Mike Morath, Commissioner of Education for the State of Texas, and I would like to congratulate the National Blue Ribbon schools that have

been named in Texas this year. Texas educates roughly five and a half million souls across nearly 9,000 campuses. And when we think about public education and the work of our schools, we are in the American dream business. [00:21:00] We prepare kids to pursue their future, whatever that might be. And it's a great calling, it's a noble pursuit. But what happens in Blue Ribbon schools is truly extraordinary, life changing, in fact, where we ensure that the vision, the promise of public education is truly delivered, that no matter where kids come in, that they leave, at the end of the school year, equipped to pursue whatever challenge comes [00:21:30] in front of them.

The work of our educators and our Blue Ribbon schools, molding eager young minds, pouring their heart and their skill and their love into our kids is truly extraordinary, and something that seems like magic, but it isn't. It's just very good, hard work. For each one of our educators in our National Blue Ribbon schools. Thank you for your extraordinary work during these very unprecedented times. God bless.

Jillian Balow: [00:22:00] To achieve Blue Ribbon status as a school, there really needs to be a symbiotic relationship between the leadership, the teachers, the families in the community, and the students. And as easy as that may look and seem to a Blue Ribbon school, it is not easy to accomplish. It means that there's trust built, that there's a focus on excellence, [00:22:30] and that there's a focus on making sure that every single student is seen and has an opportunity to be successful in school. My heartfelt congratulations goes out to all of the Blue Ribbon nominees, and especially this year's award winners.

Chris Reykdal: Hi, I'm Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal from the incredible state of Washington. That's [00:23:00] the state of Washington, the evergreen State. How did we get that name? Of course, we grow amazing trees, cedars, douglas firs, hemlocks, you name it. But why else? Because we grow amazing students. I want to congratulate all the Blue Ribbon schools nationally this year, and especially Washington's Blue Ribbon winner. Have an awesome time out there. And please know that in public ed, we are one family. We are lifting up all kids. And what you all do to create achievement and intervention and support and success makes a lifetime of [00:23:30] difference. Congratulations to everyone.

David L. Roach: Hello, my name is David L. Roach, West Virginia Superintendent of Schools. I am thrilled to congratulate this year's National Blue Ribbon Schools as shining examples of excellence in our state and throughout the country. Two of our schools are repeat [00:24:00] winners, having won this esteemed recognition in 2014 and 15. One is a first time National Blue Ribbon School and we welcome you to the forum. These schools join the 294 schools from across the country that set exceedingly high goals and standards, and then work tirelessly to achieve them. No one has required that [00:24:30] you pursue this achievement, but your administrators, teachers, staff, students, and families continuously challenge one another to strive for greatness. In our state, our

schools bind our communities together because they often serve as a cornerstone of support and services that our children so desperately need.

We are grateful for the things you do, [00:25:00] ranging from the simple to the profound, to ensure our children receive the care they need. These have not been normal times in the lives of our children and our educators, and yet you as National Blue Ribbon School winners have offered no excuses and charged forward to ensure our children continue to learn at the highest levels. [00:25:30] So, on behalf of our governor, the West Virginia Board of Education, and the State Department of Education, we extend our sincerest congratulations. We all are so proud of our National Blue Ribbon schools. May you continue to set high expectations and achieve exemplary results. Thank you.

Jill Underly:

[00:26:00] Hello, I'm Dr. Jill Underly, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction here in Wisconsin. We have so much to celebrate here in Wisconsin, from our award-winning and delicious cheese to our award-winning schools, educators, and students. I'm so excited to be a part of honoring our 2022 Blue Ribbon schools, and I want to send out a huge thank you to all the educators and school staff across Wisconsin for this incredible work that you do every single day. And of course, thank you to [00:26:30] our amazing students. You are Wisconsin's future, and I am excited to see where you take our state next.

Chad Auer:

It is my pleasure to give a hearty congratulations to two of Wyoming's great public schools, Coffeen Elementary School and Washington Elementary School. Both of these schools have earned recognition as National Blue Ribbon schools. Wyoming is very proud of you. Congratulations.