**U.S. Secretary of Education Names Herculaneum High School a 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School**

The U.S. Department of Education announced today that Herculaneum High School in the Dunklin R-5 School District is among the 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees.

Herculaneum High School was nominated by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. With the help of a grant from Doe Run, H.H.S. installed a solar array and a high efficiency HVAC system. Motion lights in the restrooms, new led light fixtures, and other improvements are expected to reduce CO2 emissions by four million pounds over their lifetime. Water conservation was also part of the plan. Low flow toilets were installed and trees were planted to lessen runoff and provide shade. To reduce solid waste, the school began composting food waste from the lunchroom. A water bottle filling station has been installed to cut down on the number of plastic water bottles. There is an annual Eco Art Fair that turns trash into art and the school has partnered with Jefferson County Recycling for paper and plastic products. The woodshop classes turned scraps into mulch, and the biology club created a wildflower butterfly garden.

Superintendent Stan Stratton says, “We are extremely proud of the high school and the work they’ve done to improve sustainability and to teach students about environmental issues.”

Principal Dr. John Crabtree says, “As our school strives to create ways to involve and educate our students about the environment and incorporate sustainable practices, we are helping to prepare our students to be good environmental citizens.”

Biology Teacher Erin Graves says, “Our students took this mission heart and did a wonderful job of helping to create a school wide atmosphere of green sustainability.”

Across the country, 35 schools, 14 districts, and four 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 28 states. The selectees include 25 public schools, including three magnet schools and two charter schools, as well as 10 nonpublic schools. Thirty-six percent of the 2019 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body.

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, as well as their nomination packages, can be found [here](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html). A report with highlights on the 53 honorees can be found [here](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html). More information on the federal recognition award can be found [here](http://www.ed.gov/green-ribbon-schools). Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found [here](http://www.greenstrides.org).

**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 "2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School." A selected district is a "2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee." A selected postsecondary institution is a “2019 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.