



**EMBARGO UNTIL APRIL 17, 2017**

**Monday, April 17, 2017**

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## **Washington and Westwood Receive 2016 Challenge Award**

**JUNCTION CITY, KAN.** – The Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force has named 76 schools in 33 Kansas public school districts, including Geary County Schools USD 475, as recipients of the 2016 Challenge Award.

This award recognizes Kansas schools that are making a notable difference in student achievement despite facing significant challenges in their school population. Since its inception in 2002, more than 1,500 awards have been presented to schools across the state.

Certificates of Merit will be presented to both Washington (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading) and Westwood (3<sup>rd</sup> grade math) Elementary Schools by Kansas State Board of Education representative Deena Horst on April 17, 2017, at 5:00 PM. This presentation will take place during the USD 475 Board of Education Celebrations meeting at Junction City Middle School.

The Confidence in Public Education Task Force is a nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is to strengthen confidence in Kansas public education and to increase awareness of the positive aspects of public education in the state. The Task Force was created in 1981.

Members of the Task Force include American Association of University Women; Kansas PTA; Kansas Association of School Boards; Kansas National Education Association; Kansas School Public Relations Association; Kansas State Board of Education; Kansas.

*For inquiries please contact Matthew Droge, Executive Director of Communications for USD 475 Geary County Schools.*

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