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Evers congratulates 2016 Green Ribbon Schools honorees

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers congratulated two public schools, one school district, and one postsecondary institution from Wisconsin that were among 73 recently honored with a 2016 Green Ribbon Schools award from the U.S. Department of Education.

The two state school awardees — **Glen Hills Middle School in Glendale**, Glendale-River Hills School District, and **West Middleton Elementary School in Verona**, Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District — are among only 47 schools recognized nationwide as 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. Additionally, the **Granton Area School District** was among only 15 nationwide to receive the 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools District Sustainability Award. The **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee** was one of 11 institutions that received the Green Ribbon awards, announced on Earth Day by the U.S. Department of Education and White House Council of Environmental Quality.

“Wisconsin’s environmental tradition continues with this year’s Green Ribbon recipients,” Evers said. “They are out front on reducing their environmental impact and utility costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff members, and ensuring effective sustainability education efforts that will ensure the wellbeing of future generations. Congratulations on receiving this award.”

The program, in its fifth year, recognizes schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions that demonstrate promising practices to improve the health of students, cut costs, and engage students in hands-on learning experiences. Since the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program began, Wisconsin has had 22 award winners and is one of five states recognized for program leadership. Victoria Rydberg, Department of Public Instruction environmental education consultant, received the Director’s Award in 2013. The 2016 winners will be honored at an event at RiverEdge Nature Center on April 30 and invited to a national recognition event in Washington, D.C., in July.

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Evers nominated the school and district awardees after they applied to the state’s Green and Healthy Schools program. Green and Healthy Schools Wisconsin is offered through a partnership between the departments of Public Instruction and Natural Resources, along with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education.

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VIDEO: “Doing Sustainability in Any School,” showcases conservation and sustainability efforts by students and staff at Purdy Elementary in Fort Atkinson. The video can be found at <https://youtu.be/ppZihXmONCQ>.

NOTES: More information about the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools awards, including links to the nominations for each winner, is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html?src=pr>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_52.pdf.