

News Release

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Middle Schools of Excellence named

MADISON — This year, six schools will receive Middle School of Excellence awards on Feb. 18 during the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) Middle-Level Principals Conference in Appleton.

The six were among 83 Exemplary Middle Schools recognized last fall for student achievement by AWSA and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. This is the third year that middle schools — small, medium, large, and high poverty — were chosen for recognition and the first time judges reached tie scores and made double awards in two categories. Schools named the 2010 Middle School of Excellence are

- **Small:** Menominee Indian Middle School in Neopit - Principal: Stephanie Feldner
- **Medium:** Einstein Middle School in Appleton - Principal: Dave Boden
- **Large:** Hudson Middle School - Principal: Dan Koch and Waunakee Community Middle School - Principal: Shelley Joan Weiss
- **High Poverty:** Unity Middle School in Balsam Lake - Principal: Elizabeth Jorgensen and T.J. Walker Middle School in Sturgeon Bay - Principal: Randy Watermolen

“Middle school sets the stage for future academic and career success,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “That is why it’s important to recognize middle schools that have set high standards and provide the supports their students need to make the many transitions that take place in middle school.”

“We are proud to join with the Department of Public Instruction to recognize these schools and to highlight the practices they use that lead to positive gains in student learning,” said Jim Lynch, AWSA executive director.

A panel of judges, which included middle school principals and a representative from the Department of Public Instruction, judged applications. They examined the schools’ efforts and accomplishments in the areas of collaboration and professional learning communities; personalization and the school environment; and curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Schools were invited to apply for a Middle School of Excellence award by being in the top 10 percent of all schools in either reading or mathematics achievement on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations, having significant gains in reading or mathematics scores during the past year, or having high growth in reading or mathematics achievement in schools of high poverty.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_15.pdf.