SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1726

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending award-winning educators in Kansas.

WHEREAS, This resolution congratulates and commends the following individuals who were selected as award-winning educators in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The Milken Educator Awards program, established by the Milken Family Foundation, recognizes and provides financial awards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other educational professionals who further excellence in education; and

WHEREAS, Lexcee Oddo, an educator at Turner Elementary School in Turner USD 202, has been selected as the Kansas recipient of the 2025 Milken Educator Award; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Horizon Award Program, currently in its 26th year and sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and Capitol Federal, identifies and recognizes exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-two beginning elementary and secondary school educators across the state have been named Kansas Horizon Award Program educators; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Region 1 Kansas Horizon Award recipients are: Mayci Armstrong, Rock Creek High School, Rock Creek USD 323; Alyssa Higbie, Manhattan High School, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383; Audrey Phelps, Ross Elementary School, Dodge City USD 443; Kate Steimel, Ellsworth Elementary School, Ellsworth USD 327; Phoebe Stottlemire, Valley Falls High School, Valley Falls USD 338; Tristyn Tow, Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383; Claudia Trout, Bennington Grade School, Twin Valley USD 240; Allison Wickstrum, Blue Valley-Randolph High School, Blue Valley-Randolph USD 384; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Region 2 Kansas Horizon Award recipients are: Alyssa Beilfuss, Linwood Elementary School, Basehor-Linwood USD 458; Zaveah Kobza, David Brewer Elementary School, Leavenworth USD 453; Alyssa McCue, Walnut Elementary School, Emporia USD 253; Eva Noble, Piper Creek Elementary School, Piper USD 203; Kaysi Overdick, Tonganoxie High School, Tonganoxie USD 464; Shayla Rahe, Marion High School, Marion-Florence USD 408; Elizabeth Sturgis, Girard High School, Girard USD 248; Ashley Swanson, Carbondale Attendance Center, Santa Fe Trail USD 434; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Region 3 Kansas Horizon Award recipients are: Asia Beck, Trojan Elementary School, Osawatomie USD 367; Gregory Bergman, Olathe Advanced Technical Center, Olathe USD 233; Jordan Dombrowski, Shawnee Mission East High School, Shawnee Mission USD 512; Cordelia Hanger, Dayton Creek Elementary School, Spring Hill USD 230; Marissa Horstick, Central Heights Middle School, Central Heights USD 288; Brittney Jundt, Riverview Elementary School, De Soto USD 232; Meadow Richardson, Sunflower Elementary School, Paola USD 368; Katlyn Whittley, Wheatridge Middle School, Gardner Edgerton USD 231; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Region 4 Kansas Horizon Award recipients are: Laura Araiza, Wichita North High School, Wichita USD 259; Davon Brees, Complete High School Maize, Maize USD 266; Whitney Brummer, St. John-Hudson Elementary School, St. John-Hudson USD 350; Nolan Crumrine, Valley Center High School, Valley Center USD 262; Abbie Griffith, Goddard High School, Goddard USD 265; Lauren Mullen, R.L. Wright Elementary School, Sedgwick USD 439; Sally Pipes, Irving Elementary School, Winfield USD 465; Ashley Shuck, Lincoln Elementary School, Wellington USD 353: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: **That we congratulate and commend these outstanding educators; and**

Be it further resolved: **That the Secretary of the Senate shall send 33 enrolled copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of Education.**

Senate Resolution No. 1726 was sponsored by Senator Adam Thomas.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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President of the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate.