U.S. Secretary of Education Names Burris Laboratory School a 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School

The U.S. Department of Education announced today that Burris Laboratory School in Muncie, Indiana is among the 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees.

Burris Laboratory School was nominated by the Indiana Department of Education as a model school for sustainability.

Dawn Miller, Principal of Burris Laboratory School stated, "Burris Laboratory School is proud to receive the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools designation. The laboratory school, on the heart of Ball State University's campus, has worked diligently to provide meaningful opportunities for students and create a sustainable culture. We are proud of our teachers' efforts to reduce paper usage embracing technology that has been provided to every student and teacher.

We hold dear the concept of all students receiving a well-rounded, rigorous curriculum embracing wellness and recreational play opportunities. We continue to form community partnerships as we forge ahead with new initiatives, such as a community garden and farm to school initiatives.

Burris Laboratory School is deeply indebted to the leadership of Ball State University for providing a geothermal conversion project that has significantly impacted our energy usage from coal-fired boilers and chilled water equipment to geothermal energy. The use of Green Seal and EPA-approved cleaning products helps to ensure our students receive the safest environment possible.

Burris Laboratory School provides a model clinical-practice setting for Ball State University pre-service teachers. We are pleased to provide an opportunity for hundreds of future teachers each year to see our green practices and our commitment to a robust, quality education for our students."

Across the country, 45 schools, nine districts, and nine 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 and the Department of Defense Department of Education Activity. The selectees include 39 public schools, including five magnet schools and one charter school, as well as six nonpublic schools. Forty-four percent of the 2017 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body and 14 percent are rural. The postsecondary honorees include three career and technical and community colleges.