



NSBA 2023 Magna Awards

USD 497's Lawrence College & Career Academy Earns Grand Prize Honors for Innovation

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The National School Boards Association (NSBA) announces that USD 497's Lawrence College & Career Academy (The Academy) is an NSBA 2023 Magna Award winner. The Academy was recognized for its commitment to innovation as a winner in the 29th annual awards program. The program is one of 18 winners — three Grand Prize winners, nine Silver Award winners, and six honorable mentions — across the nation receiving the honor.

Sponsored by NSBA's flagship magazine, *American School Board Journal*, the Magna Awards has a long history of recognizing exemplary school district programs. The 2023 awards program recognizes district programs that solved a challenge with creativity and out-of-the-box strategies. The awards were selected by an independent panel of judges.

"For more than 25 years, the Magna Awards have recognized innovative school district programs," said NSBA Executive Director and CEO Dr. John Heim. "Each of our winners exemplifies how school leaders and district staff have reinvented learning — and learning environments — for students, staff, and communities. We congratulate our winners and thank them for their hard work and devotion to the students they serve. We also hope these programs will provide information and inspiration to school districts facing similar challenges across the country."

The Academy prepares students for self-sustainability through learning academic, career, and social-emotional skills leading to high school graduation, career path employment, and successful completion of a variety of postsecondary education opportunities. It provides a "full-day" option at the Lawrence College & Career Center for students who have completed a year at Free State and Lawrence High Schools.

Academy students experience: daily health, wellness, and prevention programming; academic support; individualized academic skill development designed to meet graduation requirements; career skill development that leads to high-demand, self-sustaining careers; and integrated courses that identify the relevancy of academic content and provide links to career interests.

"I commend our amazing Academy staff for building strong relationships and doing a tremendous amount of work to connect with students who may have struggled in school and get them ready for graduation. It is remarkable to see the progress that Principal Dr. Bill DeWitt, his team, and their scholars are making," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis.

The Academy will be highlighted in the April issue of *American School Board Journal* to be available at www.nsba.org/ASBJ.