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Contact: Lesli Moylan, moylan@meea.org, 314-368-0500

2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Honoree from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Announced

Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs, Improving Health and Wellness, Offering Effective Sustainability Education

The U.S. Department of Education today released the names of the 2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Awardees, and Postsecondary Sustainability Awardees. Nerinx Hall from Missouri is among the 2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS).

"The nomination for the 2024 US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools is a pinnacle achievement for Nerinx Hall. Founded by the Sisters of Loretto 100 years ago, our school believes in nurturing empowered young women who understand and engage with the world around them. This recognition is a direct reflection of our dedication to Loretto values, which include a commitment to continually discern - and then take - our next steps to evolve in solidarity with Earth. Our sustainability initiatives align perfectly with this ethos of environmental responsibility. We strive to provide a healthy, supportive environment for our students' growth and development. It's a testament to our mission to empower individuals who care for themselves, their community, and the planet. I am immensely proud of the entire Nerinx community for this remarkable achievement." Dr. Molly Grumich, Principal

Nerinx Hall was nominated by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their exemplary progress in the three pillars of a green school: 1) lowering environmental impact, 2) improving health & wellness, and 3) providing sustainability education. Nerinx Hall is an independent, Catholic school serving 644 girls in grades 9-12, founded in 1924 by the Sisters of Loretto. The Sisters have long prided themselves on a commitment to caring for the earth. As a sponsored school, Nerinx continues to reaffirm their own commitment as well. The school's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan outlined Sustainability as one of five areas of emphasis with specific goals that mirror Pillars 1, 2, and 3. The plan states that the school will work to "Reduce environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, and continue to educate our community on environmental and sustainable practices."

A successful school-wide composting program, energy and other resource tracking, and the incorporation of retention basins and native plants on our campus contribute to the environmentally sustainable campus. Nerinx Hall's holistic approach to student and staff health, exemplified by an expanded Student Success Center, health initiatives, and diverse club offerings, reflects a dedication to fostering a healthy and thriving school community. Curriculum and day-to-day efforts reflect a commitment to Pillar 3, Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education. The integration of comprehensive and sustainability education in our curriculum, supplemented with meaningful service learning opportunities, ensures students are empowered and inspired to become conscientious stewards of the earth. The influence of the Sisters of Loretto and our current strategic



priorities continue to guide Nerinx Hall in its commitment to sustainability and environmental operational policies, student and staff wellness initiatives, and educational offerings.

Across the country, 41 schools, 10 districts, three postsecondary institutions, and one early learning center 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 24 states.

Consult the [list](#) of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, as well as their nomination packages. Read a [report](#) with highlights on the honorees. Learn [more](#) about the federal recognition award. Find [resources](#) for all schools to move toward sustainable practices.

A Note on the Award Name for Communications

ED's award is called "U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools" and has "District Sustainability Award" and "Postsecondary Sustainability Award" categories, in addition to the original school award. It is abbreviated ED-GRS. "Green Ribbon Schools" without the "U.S. Department of Education" is not ED's award, but instead is a separate program overseen by another organization. A selected school is a "2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School." A selected district is a "2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee." A selected postsecondary institution is a "2024 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee. There is no "National," "Award," or "Program" in the title. There is no apostrophe or hyphen after Education.