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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Three Kimberly Recipients Honored by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation

**Kimberly, Wis. – April 5, 2018** – The [Kimberly Area School District](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us) is proud to have three honorees among those to receive 2018 [Herb Kohl Educational Foundation](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us) Excellence Scholarship, Teacher Fellowship and Principal Leadership Awards.



Julia Thompson, a senior at [Kimberly High School \(KHS\)](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us), will be recognized as a Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Excellence Scholar. Thompson excels academically and pursues leadership opportunities in co-curricular and volunteer activities. She is the Co-President of the National Honor Society and is a two-time state qualifier in DECA. Thompson has played tennis the last four years, including three seasons on varsity, where she earned All-Conference Honorable Mention, Team MVP and was a three-year Scholar Athlete. She is very involved in her school community, she has tutored high school Spanish students and is an active member of Key Club, PEACEMakers, Life Force and Link Crew. She is gaining career skills as a Community Enrichment Coordinator Intern at the City of Kaukauna Planning and Community Development Department. Thompson started and runs her own jewelry business, where she works as a vendor at local farmers' markets and consigns her pieces at local shops. She is a great example of a student who is reaching their potential by pursuing opportunities in academics, the arts and co-curricular activities.

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“Julia is motivated academically and well-rounded socially,” said Christopher Biolo, a school counselor at Kimberly High School. “Her strongest traits include ambition, hard work, leadership, responsibility, and her outgoing personality.”

Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarships recognize students who have demonstrated excellence in the academic arena and high motivation to achieve, have displayed a broad range of activity and leadership outside the academic setting, and have shown strong promise for succeeding in college and beyond. This year the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation is awarding students throughout Wisconsin with \$10,000 Excellence Scholarships. Only 191 graduating high school students in the state received scholarships from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation this year.



Jodi King, a math teacher at [J.R. Gerritts Middle School \(JRG\)](#), was recognized with a Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship. Fellowship recipients are selected for their superior ability to inspire a love of learning in their students, their ability to motivate others, and their leadership and service within and outside the classroom. King is an accomplished educator with 22 years of experience in the District. She has earned her National Board Certification, the highest professional credential available

in the education field. As a mentor coach to newly hired teachers in the District, her influence extends well beyond her students and school. She is lauded as motivating all of her students, including the highest achieving and those challenged by the coursework. King saw a need to reach students who were facing difficult obstacles in their personal lives and she was instrumental in the development of the Foundations program. Foundations supports at-risk students and provides them opportunities to get onto a better path to personal success.

“Jodi is the consummate, eternal teacher and learner whose influence and expertise are literally infused across our District,” said Rob DeLain, assistant principal at JRG. “Many teach, but so few can rise to the level that she sets for herself. Jodi is far from thinking she has plateaued as a veteran teacher. I am excited and intrigued as to where she will take herself, her students, our teachers and the District in the future.”



Mike Rietveld, principal of Kimberly High School, was honored with a Leadership Award from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. He has been serving and leading students in the Kimberly Area School District for 36 years. When Rietveld started at KHS 27 years ago, the school had 420 students, few challenging courses and low community expectations for graduates. KHS is now considered a high quality comprehensive high school with an enrollment of over 1,500 students and has been named one of America's Most Challenging High Schools for academic rigor seven years in a row.

"Mike's tenure as principal of KHS has been nothing short of spectacular," said Bob Mayfield, superintendent of the Kimberly Area School District. "Principal Rietveld has found a way to balance academics, the arts and athletics by requiring excellence in their respective areas." Since Rietveld is retiring at the end of the current school year, this award recognizes both his continuing work to encourage students to pursue their potential and his legacy in Kimberly.

The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship and Leadership Award recipients receive a \$6,000 award and a matching grant to their school. Only 100 teachers and 16 principals in Wisconsin were recognized by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in 2018.

The Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Scholarship, Fellowship and Leadership Award programs were established by Herb Kohl, philanthropist and businessman, in 1990. To date, the foundation has awarded \$14.5 million to Wisconsin educators, principals, students, and schools. "Education is the key to the future of Wisconsin and our nation. I am very proud of the accomplishments of these students, teachers and principals, and look forward to the great contributions they will make in the future," Kohl said.

### **About the Kimberly Area School District**

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential

through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,100 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit [www.kimberly.k12.wi.us](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us).