



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schools Honored for Innovative Implementations of Digital Content and Curriculum

K-12 schools recognized by the Center for Digital Education are successfully using digital content and curriculum to improve instruction and student engagement.

DENVER, COLO. —2016 — K-12 schools that are breaking new ground in the use of digital content and curriculum were honored by the Center for Digital Education (CDE), in collaboration with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), at the [fourth-annual Digital Content and Curriculum Achievement Awards \(DCCAA\)](#) in Denver last night.

“It’s exciting to see that districts like Columbus Municipal School District all over the country are moving from pilot projects to full-scale implementation of digital content and curriculum,” said Dr. Kecia Ray, executive director of the Center for Digital Education. “This year’s honorees are taking the practice of education to new heights that show great promise for other districts to follow. Dr. Philip Hickman has led his district through developing strong principals and teachers and they have the results to prove it.”

“It is with great honored that I accept this award. I also know I did not do this by myself,” said Dr. Philip Hickman, I have a strong group of central office leaders, principals, and teachers that are the true innovators. They fight everyday to prepare our students for the 21st century. I am also grateful that we have the best students scholars in

the world who embraced the new technology.”

DCCAA awards are presented to schools in three categories: Large District/Schools (12,000 or more students), Medium District/Schools (3,000 - 12,000 students) and Small District/Schools (up to 3,000 students). **Schools earning top honors this year** include:

Rowan-Salisbury Schools, NC - Digital Citizenship (Large District/School category)

The Rowan-Salisbury Schools Digital Citizenship Curriculum was created to reinforce the district’s new 1:1 take-home device program where all students receive either a MacBook Air or iPad. Created by 25 Rowan-Salisbury Schools teachers and an instructional technology facilitator, the lessons provide a robust and comprehensive curriculum designed to provide students in grades K-12 with 18 vertically and horizontally aligned lessons on digital citizenship, including Internet safety, privacy and security, relationships and communication, cyberbullying, etc.

Columbus Municipal School District, Miss. – Digital Transformation and OER (Medium District/School category) Columbus Municipal School District (CMSD) increased student achievement districtwide. In less than one year, CMSD developed a blended K-16 Instructional and Technology Integration Model, administered 1:1 and 2:1 implementation districtwide, and transitioned to Open Educational Resources districtwide. Graduation rates have improved around 20%. CMSD has gained national recognition and Dr. Hickman has become one of the top leading educators in the nation in education technology.

Sheboygan Falls School District, WI – Elementary-Level Computer Programming (Small District/School category) Sheboygan Falls School District is using technology to teach technology. The district recently launched elementary computer programming, a series of age-appropriate, computer-based lessons taught to first through fourth-graders. For example, in kindergarten, lessons include the use of

robots, which teach students to problem-solve and place events in the correct order, among other things. The program increases problem solving skills, encourages the development of highly-valued programming skills and prepares students for computing classes in middle school.

Additional DCCAA honorees include:

K-12 Large District/School Honorees (12,000 or more students):

- Coachella Valley Unified School District, CA - SAMR Advanced Instructor (SAMRai) Teacher Micro- Credentialing □
- Katy Independent School District, TX - Connecting Learners to Create Unparalleled Learning Experiences □
- Vista Unified School District, CA - Digital Conversion □
- Wilson County School District, TN - Immersing Students with 3D and Virtual Reality Content □

K-12 Medium District/School Honorees (3,000 - 12,000 students): □

- McHenry School District 15, IL - Making Time to Make a Difference in a Digital World □
 - City School District of New Rochelle, NY - Writing and Filmmaking □
- K-12 Small District/School Honorees (up to 3,000 students):** □

- Mineola Union Free School District, NY - Flipping the Elementary Math Classroom □
- Piedmont Unified School District, CA - Flipping the Classroom with Video Science Lessons □

□ Sarah Pyle Academy, DE - Blending Technology & Personalization 4 Success □ Read more about the honorees and their award-winning initiatives [here](#). □ The Digital Content and Curriculum Achievement Awards program was established by CDE to recognize □ schools for their innovation and diligence in digital content and curriculum program implementation. □ CDE thanks

sponsors APEX Learning, Desire2Learn, DreamBox Learning, Edgenuity, itslearning inc., Learning.com, Microsoft, NETGEAR, Samsung, SHI and SMART Technologies Inc. for underwriting the 2016 Digital Content and Curriculum Achievement Awards.

□ **About The Center for Digital Education** □ The [Center for Digital Education](#) (CDE) is a national research and advisory institute specializing in K-12 and higher education technology trends, policy and funding. CDE provides education and industry leaders with decision support and actionable insights to help effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. □ CDE is a division of [e.Republic](#), the nation's only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

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