

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Dr. Bedell Named Finalist for Top Education Leadership Award *Council of Great City Schools to reveal Green-Garner Award winner on Oct. 15*

**Kansas City, September 28, 2020:** The positive gains being made in Kansas City Public Schools are once again garnering national attention.

KCPS Superintendent Mark Bedell has been named a finalist for the 2020 Green-Garner Award by the Council of Great City Schools. The award honors the nation's top leaders in public education among the council's 74 member school districts. It is given to a superintendent and a school board member in alternating years.

Dr. Bedell was selected as a finalist because of the work he has done in KCPS since 2016 to make a positive difference in educating the district's students and improving their lives, according to a letter from council Executive Director Michael Casserly.

"You have shown a strong dedication to the needs of your students, a profound commitment to improvement, and have exemplified significant community involvement and leadership," Mr. Casserly wrote.

The Green-Garner Award winner will be revealed live during the council's 64th Fall Conference, which will be hosted virtually on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 15. The award is sponsored by the council, Cenergistic, Curriculum Associates and K12 Insight.

Since becoming superintendent four years ago, Dr. Bedell has helped increase stability in district leadership, strengthen engagement with the entire Kansas City community, spark ongoing efforts to increase equity and implemented system-wide changes that have led to gains in academic achievement.

"Dr. Mark Bedell is a man of goodwill, friendliness, wisdom and vision," Hartman Elementary School Principal Jessie Kirksey said. "He has developed a supportive and encouraging village because of the way he engages all of his stakeholders. They depend upon his expertise, knowledge, experience and heart to lead Kansas City Public Schools to greater heights."

In a letter of support for Dr. Bedell's nomination for the award, KCPS Board of Directors Chair Pattie Mansur talked about how his work has impacted the entire community.

"Dr. Bedell is a visible presence in this city, and one of the first superintendents in decades who has had a child graduate from one of our schools," Ms. Mansur wrote. "That personal commitment has resonated with people who see him as a leader not only for education but also for this city."

Dr. Bedell expressed his gratitude to the Council of Great City Schools for this recognition and gave credit to every member of the KCPS team.

"This type of recognition isn't possible without the incredible efforts that are taken all throughout this organization," he said. "Our teachers, our support staff, our school leaders and our central office staff are



all doing important work every day to make sure our students are getting a world-class education. Everybody is doing their part, and they're doing this work because they care, not for the accolades.”

Visit [www.KCPublicSchools.org/About/KCPS-Leadership](http://www.KCPublicSchools.org/About/KCPS-Leadership) to learn more about Dr. Bedell and his leadership team. Visit [www.CGCS.org](http://www.CGCS.org) to learn more about the Council of Great City Schools.