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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five Kimberly Recipients Honored by the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation

Kimberly, Wis. – April 26, 2017 – The [Kimberly Area School District](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us) is proud to have five honorees among those recognized with 2017 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship, Fellowship and Leadership Awards.

Charlie Fischer and Will Wegner, both seniors at [Kimberly High School \(KHS\)](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us), were recognized as Kohl Foundation Excellence Scholars. Charlie excels academically and pursues leadership opportunities in co-curricular and volunteer activities. She served as the State of Wisconsin DECA President and is responsible for leading one of the strongest DECA delegations in the world. She has competed successfully at the

international level in both DECA and National History Day.

Academically, she has been recognized as an AP Scholar with Distinction and as a National Merit Commended Student.

Will Wegner is currently ranked first in his class. He is very active in the theatrical and musical productions at KHS. His talents have earned him prestigious musical opportunities, including membership on the Lawrence Music Academy Wind Ensemble and an invitation to play with Macy's Great American Marching Band during their



Retired Senator Herb Kohl recognizing Will Wegner as an Excellence Scholar



Retired Senator Herb Kohl recognizing Charlie Fischer as an Excellence Scholar.

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famous Thanksgiving Day parade. Will was recognized as a National AP Scholar and as a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Both Will and Charlie are great examples of students who are reaching their potential by pursuing opportunities in academics, the arts and co-curricular activities.

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. Each year the Herb Kohl Foundation awards students throughout Wisconsin with \$5,000 Excellence Scholarships. This year, the foundation made a surprise announcement and doubled that amount to be a \$10,000 scholarship. Only 207 graduating high school students in the state received scholarships from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation this year.

Three educators from the Kimberly Area School District were recognized with Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowships. These 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.

- Tim Handrich, school counselor at [J.R. Gerritts Middle School](#), has been helping Kimberly students for 37 years. “Tim really exemplifies the way we want to support the whole child to reach their potential in academics, the arts and co-curriculars,” said Eric Brinkmann, principal of JRG. “He is a tireless worker on behalf of our students and their families, working to improve the systems that support them and encourage their growth toward independence and success.” Tim is retiring at the end of this school year. This award recognizes both his continuing work to be better every day for our students and his legacy in Kimberly.



Retired Senator Herb Kohl presenting Tim Handrich with a Fellowship for 2017.

- Miki Wise, art teacher at Kimberly High School, is an accomplished educator and artist whose dedication to the arts expands opportunities for students and the community. “She is passionate about teaching the arts to all students, but is especially dedicated to helping intellectually challenged students,” said Mike Rietveld, principal at KHS. “Oftentimes their art is their voice.” Miki is a highly respected and sought after choreographer who has worked with KHS performers and community venues to enhance their productions. She also performs in a variety of community theater productions.



Retired Senator Herb Kohl presenting Miki Wise with a Fellowship for 2017.

- Sandi Worley, special education teacher at [Westside Elementary School](#), has been an educator in the Kimberly Area School District for over 23 years. She is passionate about collaborating with her colleagues and parents to ensure that every student is engaged in their education. “Sandi is an educator of the highest quality,” said Jonathan Peterson, principal at Westside Elementary School. “She cares deeply for kids and works countless hours to make sure all students grow. We are blessed to have Sandi as part of our school community.”



Retired Senator Herb Kohl presenting Sandi Worley with a Fellowship for 2017.

The Herb Kohl Foundation traditionally awards Fellowship recipients with a \$3,000 award and a matching grant to their school. This year, the foundation doubled that amount to \$6,000 for both the recipient and the matching grant. Only 100 teachers in Wisconsin were recognized with Fellowships from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation in 2017.

The Kohl Foundation Scholarship and Fellowship program was established by Herb Kohl, philanthropist and businessman, in 1990. To date, the foundation has awarded \$11.5 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 5,000 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.