

# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 96

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**To:** Dr. Martha Ryan-Toye, Superintendent  
**From:** Angela Dolezal, Director of Teaching and Learning  
**Date:** December 3, 2025  
**Re:** Participation in the West40 SCOTY Awards

## **Overview**

At the request of our fifth-grade teachers, District 96 will participate in the West40 SCOTY Awards program this year. The SCOTY Awards, short for *School Citizens of the Year*, is a regional recognition program sponsored by West40 Intermediate Service Center to celebrate student achievement, leadership, and character across the many districts West40 serves.

## **Program Description**

The SCOTY Awards recognize students who exemplify exceptional leadership, kindness, and citizenship within their school communities. While academic performance and participation in school activities are considered, they represent only a small part of the overall selection process. The primary emphasis is on students who consistently exemplify positive character, empathy, and service to others.

Each participating school is encouraged to establish local selection criteria to guide the nomination process. In District 96, fifth-grade teachers and principals will collaborate to identify one student per school who embodies the SCOTY values. This year, one fifth-grade student from Ames, Blythe Park, Central, and Hollywood Elementary Schools will be selected as the 2025-2026 SCOTY Award recipient for their respective school.

## **Recognition**

The selected students will be recognized at a spring banquet hosted by West40, where they will join other honorees from across the region in being celebrated for their leadership and contribution to their school communities.

## **Summary**

Participation in the SCOTY Awards provides District 96 with another meaningful opportunity to highlight and celebrate the outstanding character and citizenship demonstrated by our students, reinforcing our district's commitment to develop not only academic excellence but also empathy, integrity, and service.