



Carolyn Wims-Campbell Selected for KSHSAA Governor's Award

TOPEKA, Kan. - Annually, the Kansas State High School Activities Association presents an award known as the Governor's Award, to an individual recognizing their outstanding contributions in the field of secondary education in the state of Kansas. We are pleased to announce Carolyn Wims-Campbell, Topeka, has been selected as the recipient of this prestigious honor in 2017.

Carolyn L. Wims-Campbell was elected to serve as the District 4 representative on the Kansas State Board of Education for two terms from January 2009 through the end of December 2016. The first African-American member of the State Board, she served as vice-chair twice (2011-13 and 2015-17). Prior to serving on the State Board of Education, Ms. Wims-Campbell was elected to three terms on the Topeka Public Schools USD 501 Board of Education beginning in 1995 where she served two terms as President (1997-1999 and July 2006-2007). Ms. Wims-Campbell is a past president of the National Federation of Urban Suburban School Districts and as a Regional Vice President of the Kansas Association of School Boards. In addition, she has served as a past Topeka YWCA Board member and past Community in Schools Board member. Currently, Ms. Wims-Campbell serves as a Dr. Martin Luther King Living the Dream Business Partner and also serves on the Sheldon Head Start Policy Council, the Capital City School Site Council, the Kansas Volunteer Commission and the Topeka Alliance for Black School Educators. Ms. Wims-Campbell is also co-founder of the Circle of Women mentoring group, which is active with young women of high school age in Topeka.

Ms. Wims-Campbell has received many awards and recognitions, including the State of Kansas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream Education Award; the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence & Research Award and the Topeka Public Schools Friends of Education Award.

Ms. Wims-Campbell traces her support and involvement in education to her upbringing in the segregated elementary schools in Topeka. An alumnus of McKinley Elementary in North Topeka, Ms. Wims-Campbell has spoken about the strict but caring educators at this school stressing excellence and holding high expectations for their students. After graduating from Topeka High School, Ms. Wims-Campbell graduated from Clark's School of Business and was hired in 1960 as the second African-American at the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. She is a life-long member of St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal Church and remains an active participant in the life and work of the congregation. Ms. Wims-Campbell is the mother of a daughter, Erica Elise Campbell, who she notes to be first among her life's accomplishments.

The KSHSAA Governor's Award Selection Committee is comprised of the presidents of the Kansas National Education Association, Kansas Association of School Boards, United School Administrators, Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals and the Kansas School Superintendents' Association.