

NEWS RELEASE

Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Charles Volland, Chairman, Confidence in
Kansas Public Education Task Force
(785) 717- 4066

TASK FORCE ABC AWARD TO GOV. PARKINSON

Gov. Mark Parkinson has been named the recipient of the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force 2011 Friend of Education ABC Award. First Lady Stacy Parkinson will accept the award on the Governor's behalf at the Ninth annual Challenge Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening, Nov. 10, at Junction City Middle School. The ABC Award is the task force's highest honor and since 1983 has been given in recognition of significant service to public education.

The ABC Award is given to individuals, businesses or organizations that have provided long-term contributions or outstanding service to public education. The 2011 award is being bestowed upon Gov. Parkinson in recognition of his efforts to protect funding for Kansas public schools over the past year, in particular his call for a 1 percent increase in the state sales tax for a three-year period.

After a contentious legislative session, the majority of the Governor's budget recommendations, including the tax increase, were adopted. Without the Governor's relentless support of an adequate budget and the necessary revenue to support it, almost \$200 million would have been cut from school budgets, forcing larger classrooms, teacher layoffs and some schools to even close their doors. The ABC Award recognizes Gov. Parkinson's unwavering commitment to the children of the state and to Kansas public education.

The Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force is a non-profit coalition formed to promote Kansas public education and to increase awareness of the positive aspects of public education in the state. The member organizations include the American Association of University Women; Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers; K-NEA; the Kansas School Public Relations Association, the Kansas Association of School Boards; the Kansas State Department of Education; the Kansas State High School Activities Association and the United School Administrators of Kansas.

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