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### **League of Kansas Municipalities Honors “If I Were Mayor” Contest Winners**

On January 23, the League of Kansas Municipalities held their annual Local Government Day event. Hundreds of local government officials, both elected and appointed, attended the event to discuss legislative priorities for cities. The League also uses this event as an opportunity to recognize six 7<sup>th</sup> graders for their participation in the League’s annual “If I Were Mayor” memo contest. This year, the League recognized Brent Henry, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School in Goddard, as the statewide winner. Henry’s memo represented the South Central region of Kansas.

Every year, the League hosts a statewide competition for all seventh-grade students. The students are tasked with deciding what change they would want to make in their community if given the chance to be mayor. The memo format requires students to consider their policy proposal, barriers to implementation, and an evaluation of necessary resources. Hundreds of students participated in the contest and five regional winners along with one overall winner was selected.

Henry’s memo focused on building more inclusive playgrounds with accessibility to everyone which included smooth surfaces, wheelchair accessible ramps, adaptive swings, and sensory components. His memo suggested funding for his project would be managed through existing funds for playgrounds, by reallocating funds to buy more inclusive equipment, or through grants and fundraising. Henry emphasized the need for collaboration between schools and community organizations.

The League presented awards to six regional students who were named regional winners in the contest.

Name	Region	School	City
Brent Henry	Overall Winner South Central	Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School	Goddard/Wichita
Karissa Haldeman	North West	Quinter Junior High	Quinter
Peyton McCormick	South West	Scott City Middle School	Scott City
Jack Tell	North East	Billy Mills Middle School	Lawrence
Luke Franklin	North Central	Smith Center Junior/Senior High School	Smith Center
Emma Krueger	South East	Burlington Middle School	Burlington



Winners of the “If I Were Mayor” contest gathered in Topeka on January 23, 2019 to be honored for their achievement. The winners are pictured with David McDaniel, Mayor, City of Ellis and Kansas Association of Mayors President (L-back row); and Daron Hall, City Manager, City of Pittsburg and League President (R-back row). From L-R: Emma Krueger, South East Regional Winner, Burlington Middle School, Burlington; Peyton McCormick, South West Regional Winner, Scott City Middle School, Scott City; Jack Tell, North East Regional Winner, Billy Mills Middle School, Lawrence; Brent Henry, Overall Statewide Winner and South Central Regional Winner, Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Goddard; and Luke Franklin, North Central Regional Winner, Smith Center Junior/Senior High School, Smith Center. Not pictured: Karissa Haldeman, North West Regional Winner, Quinter Junior High; Quinter.

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Established by municipal officials in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization representing Kansas cities. The League works for its member cities through advocacy, legal advice, education and other services. Follow the League of Kansas Municipalities on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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