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ECSD NEWS RELEASE PROVIDED BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
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Help the Washington High Wildcats' Library Win Big *Votes Needed to Make This Happen*

Pensacola, FL: Celebrate Literacy Week is coming later this month, Jan. 23 – 27, and schools across the District are planning a variety of events and activities to celebrate books and encourage readers. One local high school has decided to take an effort national by entering a contest for a chance to grow their library of available books.

Booker T. Washington High School has entered a \$200,000 national education contest hoping for a chance at one of the 13 prizes that will be awarded to recognize the most unique and inventive K-12 programs. In addition to completing an online application for the annual [Follett Challenge](#), Washington High School also submitted a short video to promote its Innovation Center program that teaches students the 21st-century skills they need to be prepared for life.

Ten of the prizes, valued at \$8,000 each, to be given away are from the People's Choice category and will solely be based on how many votes applicants have received for their videos from the public. Video voting begins January 23, 2017. Washington High School's video will be available on the Follett Challenge website (www.follettchallenge.com) at the following link: follettchallenge.com/videos/826

After registering, users can cast one vote per day through Jan. 27, when voting ends. Not only are the public's votes significant in the video-voting portion of the contest, but they also will play a role in the overall rubric as 20 percent of each school's final score is based on the number of votes generated for their video.

"We hope our community will be inspired by our video and vote for our submission," said Alisha Wilson, Innovation Specialist. "Participating in the Follett Challenge recognizes our educators for the great job they are doing with the resources they have and, should we win, reward them with resources to do more. It also will give our educators here a platform to share their innovation with other schools across the country and throughout the world."

A total prize value of \$200,000 in products and services will be awarded by Follett, a global education solutions leader. There will be a semi-finalist selected from the high schools, middle schools and elementary schools and each will win \$30,000. The overall winner will be selected

from the three semi-finalists and will win an additional \$30,000. The 10 People's Choice awards are worth \$8,000 each in products and services and will be announced Feb. 28, 2017, along with the Semi-finalists. The 2017 Grand Prize winner will be announced Apr. 28, 2017.

The judges will be seeking applications that illustrate critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration between students and among teachers and other members of the school staff. Last year's Grand Prize winner was Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High in Fairbanks, AK.

For more on the Follett Challenge, visit www.follettchallenge.com.

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