



## H. J. Green



A scholarship was established to honor H.J. Green who became the first white principal of a desegregated Booker T. Washington High School in 1973. Green began his career with TPS as a teacher and coach at several area high schools. He eventually moved into administration duties in 1969 and was principal at Hale High School for three years. Green remained at BTW for eight years. He later worked in Oklahoma City and

California.

H. J. Green said the student projection for 1973 was 1,200 - 50 percent white and 50 percent black. Meetings at homes and local churches were organized to spread the word about BTW's new magnet program. Community recruitment worked, and the enrollment was up to 1,150 by the beginning of the 1973-74 school year. Green said he never witnessed any fights or racial disturbances. "The balance was creating a new environment while holding onto old traditions. That school was the heart and soul of the community going back to the 1900s," he said. Today, the school offers a Tulsa Public Schools magnet program that is so popular that it turns away potential students every year. In 2005, Newsweek magazine listed Booker T. Washington as one of the top 100 schools in the United States.

In 2022, Mr. Green was inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame. While principal at BTW he was named one of the 60 most effective high school principals by the National Association of Secondary School Principals which later led to him being inducted into the Booker T. Washington Distinguished Hall of Fame.

Green was a football player at Oklahoma State University and served as a high school coach. This experience helped him during his three years as executive director of the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. Green returned to Oklahoma in 2008 and served as Tulsa's deputy superintendent and turnaround officer. Green has also served on numerous nonprofit boards including the Oklahoma Educational Memorial Trust Foundation, the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame, and the National College Football Hall of Fame.

"It's impossible to articulate the enormous impact of his work or the influence that he's made on the lives of students and educators – not to mention Oklahoma history," Kyle Dahlem wrote in nominating Green. "While other parts of the state and nation struggled to change the culture of schools, Tulsa put an integration plan in place and worked the plan all under the aegis of H.J. Green."

- Adapted from <https://ktul.com/news/local/three-educators-selected-to-beinducted-into-hall-of-fame>