

## **Staff Awards**

### **Nebraska Teacher of the Year**

A candidate for Teacher of the Year should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled teacher in any state-approved or accredited school. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 as a means of recognizing outstanding teachers. The Nebraska Teacher of the Year Program has been in place since 1972 and affords the opportunity to honor dedicated teachers for excellence in classroom teaching.

### **Finalists and Recipients for Nebraska Teacher of the Year**

2015 - Sarah Schau, finalist

2014 - Judy Stucky, finalist

**2013 - Angela Mosier, recipient**

2013 - Judy Stucky, finalist

**2010 - Michael Fryda, recipient**

2008 – Ricardo Varguez, finalist

**2005 – Brenda Zabel, recipient**

2005 – Pamela Buchholz, finalist

2004 - Roger Groth, finalist

2003 - Roger Groth, finalist

2003 - Bob Jenkins, finalist

2002 - Carl Clark, finalist

**1996 – Jean LaGrone, recipient**

### **National Board Certified Teachers**

We are proud to have teachers of various curricular areas and teaching levels who have mastered the steps to become NBPTS (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards) Certified teachers. While the process of becoming nationally certified requires over a year's commitment involving hours of additional time preparing lessons, video recordings, and written analysis, it is a journey that results in tremendous teacher growth. Every part of the process involves learning about best practice, putting that learning into action, and reflecting on the results. The process is intensive and requires a significant time commitment, but teachers can leave the experience with a deep examination of personal teaching style and a thorough study of content area.

### **National Board Certified Teachers Currently Employed by Westside Community Schools:**

Debra Hall

Lindsey Jagels

Deborah Kruse

Denine Marshall

Angela Mosier

Eric Sayre

Diane Schergin

Judith Stucky

Amy Studts

### **Nationally Board Certified School Psychologists Currently Employed by Westside:**

Courtenay Gnader

Melanie Lempke

Monica McKeVitt

Mary McPadden

Karen Mussman  
Megan Poell  
Erin Strasil Larson  
Abbey Sualy  
Melissa Williams

**Staff Certified by the American Speech Language Hearing Association:**

Cortney Brummond (Grauberger)  
Mary Ferguson  
Heidi Hansen  
Shawna Johnson  
Anna Mauch  
Page Mossage  
Deborah Nilius  
Abbey Painter  
Linda Safranek  
Joan Tucker

**Staff Certified by the National Board for Certified Counselors:**

Kristen Bivens  
Kathleen McGill

**Milken Educator Awards**

The Milken Educator Award honors and rewards outstanding K-12 educators for the quality of their teaching, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their potential for even greater contributions to the healthy development of children. We are proud to have an award recipient amongst our staff.

**Recipients Milken Educator Award**

2010 – Garret Higginbotham  
2003 - Terry Fischer  
2000 - Laura Croom  
1998 - Jean LaGrone  
1997 - Roger Groth  
1996 - Jim Findley

**Distinguished Teaching Award from the Schragger Foundation**

**Recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award from the Schragger Foundation**

2016 – Deborah Fayman & Sarah Schau  
2015 - Shawn Blevins & Sandy Morrow  
2014 - Cara Kimball & Anna Sumner  
2013 - Debra Hanslip & Michael Fryda  
2012 - Mary D'Angelo & Cheryl Houser  
2011 - Bob Brousek & Cindy Perry  
2010 - Connie Tompkins & Brenda Zabel  
2009 - Don Gilpin & Katherine Campagna  
2008 - Doran Johnson & Buffie Somers  
2007 - Teri Williams & Rita Yasson  
2006 - Tom Carman & Carol Fleming  
2005 - Kathleen Brady & Gary Salerno

2004 - Janet Fidler & Roger Groth  
2003 - Paul Hundtoft & Therese (T.J.) Jensen  
2002 - Patty McArdle & Doug Pierson  
2001 - John Graff & Bob Jenkins  
2000 - Kris Luxon & John Thomsen

**Nebraska Christa McAuliffe Prize For Courage and Excellence in Education  
Finalists and Recipients Christa McAuliffe Prize for Courage and Excellence in Education**

2014 - Pam Mitchell, recipient  
2010 - Rhonda Josten, recipient  
2007 – Nancy Mitchell, recipient

**Nebraska Ak-Sar-Ben Ike Friedman Teacher Leader Awards  
Finalists and Recipients Ike Friedman Teacher Leadership Award**

2010 – Jan Carman  
2008 - Mike Fryda, recipient  
2008 – Michelle Patterson, recipient  
2007 – Jessica Kent, recipient  
2007 – Lynn Spady, recipient  
2005 – Nancy Mitchell, recipient  
2005 – Connie Willits, recipient  
1993- Sandy Irish, recipient

**TASH Breakthroughs in Inclusive Education Award for District Administrators**

2010 - Steve Milliken, Director, Special Services

**Apple Distinguished Educator Award**

The Apple Distinguished Educators (ADE) program was created to recognize K-12 and higher education pioneers who are transforming teaching and learning with the use of technology. Today it has grown into a worldwide community of visionary educators and innovative leaders who are doing amazing things with technology in and out of the classroom.

2015 - Dustin Carlson  
2013 - Matt Lee  
2011 - Cristin Rold  
2003 - Kent Kingston

**Phi Delta Kappa's (PDK) Emerging Leader Award**

2014 - Aaron Bredenkamp, dean, WHS  
2011 - Andrew Rikli, Asst. Superintendent, Operations

**Nebraska High School Press Association Distinguished Advisor Award**

2011 - Matt Rasgorshek

**Journalism Education Association Distinguished Broadcast Advisor**

2015 - Matt Rasgorshek

**Nebraska International Language Association**

2011- Ginger Starks-Yoble (New Educator Award)  
2011- Barb Irvin (Study, Travel, Achievement and Recognition Award)

**Nebraska School Counselor Association, High School Counselor of the Year Award**

2013 - Theresa Henson

**National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Gold Medallion Award**

2000- Peggy Rupprecht, Director of Communications and Ken Bird, Superintendent

**Nebraska Educational Technology Association's (NETA) Excellence in Leading with Technology Award**

2011 - Kent Kingston, Executive Director, Administrative & Technology Services

**Nebraska Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NAHPERD) Award**

2011- Debra Kaplan

**Nebraska Music Educators Association, Music Educator of the Year**

2012 – Doran Johnson

**Nebraska School Counselor Association, High School Counselor of the Year Award**

2013 – Theresa Henson

**Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics, Rookie of the Year Award**

2014 – Kristen Hogan

**Dale E. Black Outstanding Young Teacher Award**

2011- Dana Christensen

**U.S. Department of Education Teaching Fellowship**

2012-13 Aaron Bredenkamp

**U.S. State Department Fellowship, Uruguay Educator Exchange Program**

2011-12 John White

**International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, Outstanding Affiliate Representative Award**

2013 - Anna Sumner

**National Association for Gifted Children, Lifetime Achievement Award**

2013 - Debra Hanslip

**Westside Foundation Bravo Awards**

2016 – Jason Fry, Vicki Londer and Megan Poell

2015 -- Denise Kueny, Kerri Lewis, and Peg Reznicek

2014 -- Rob Huebner and Terri Kleinschmit

2013 – Patty McCardle and Julie Shields

2012 – Sarah Ehlers

2012 – Kimberly De La Cruz and Gloria Stover

2011 – Pam VanFleet

2010 – Rebecca Kratky

**Nebraska Career Education Conference, BEST Award**

2015 - Crystal Bolamperti and Sydney Kobza

2012 – Crystal Bolamperti

**Mountain-Plains Business Education Association, MS Business Teacher of the Year**  
2010 - Crystal Bolamperti

**Future Leader in Mathematics Award (UNO)**  
2013 - Davina Faimon

**Nebraska Association for Middle Level Education Merit Award**  
2013 - Caroline Sheffield and Mark Durante (wind turbine project)