



NEWS RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARD

Sara Robinson, a Grand Island Public Schools teacher, received a national educator award today and \$25,000 during a surprise presentation at her school.

Robinson, a fourth grade teacher at C. Ray Gates Elementary School, received the 2012 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Gov. Dave Heineman, Education Commissioner Roger Breed and Jane Foley, senior vice president of the Milken Family Foundation, surprised Robinson with the award during an all-school assembly.

Robinson was described as a “phenomenal classroom teacher that is passionate about her role. She advocates for each child and works late each day to ensure that she has everything just right for the next day. I think she bleeds school,” said Julie Martin, the principal of Robinson’s school. “Her students take great pride in their work just as their teacher models.”

Martin also said Robinson takes her role seriously, toiling over data and making decisions that will impact student achievement, actively searching for improved teaching practices to help her students achieve at higher levels. “Sara is a leader in the (school) building and district,” Martin wrote. “She is truly a gift to education and continues to give of herself over and over again.”

Robinson received a degree in elementary education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a Master’s Degree in curriculum and instruction from Doane College. She received the Deans Academic Excellence Award for six semesters. She has received numerous grants for classroom technology and was nominated for the Gates Extra-Ordinary Person in 2011 and 2012 as well as for the Grand Island Public Schools’ Teacher of the year in 2012.

The Milken Family Foundation has been recognizing teachers across the country since 1987. The program provides public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other educational professionals to attract, retain and motivate talented people. Robinson and others from across the country will participate in the Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference.

About 40 outstanding educators across the nation will be named 2012 Milken Educator Award recipients. The Family Foundation National Educator Award provides public recognition and an unrestricted financial award of \$25,000 to teachers, principals and other education professionals who are furthering excellence in education. The selection criteria include:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and school.

- Exemplary educational accomplishments that provide models of excellence for the profession outside the classroom.
- Strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership.
- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community.

The Milken Family Foundation has provided more than \$135 million in funding to the Milken Educator Awards since its inception, including over \$63 million in individual awards to more than 2,500 recipients plus professional development opportunities and networking with leading education stakeholders.

For more information about the award, visit www.mff.org

Video available at: <http://www.mff.org/newsroom/news.taf?page=videos&init=&dateYear=&vid=1200>