



NEWS RELEASE

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Editor's note: This press release from THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary, has been localized, edited.

LINCOLN, BEATRICE TEACHERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

President Obama Honors Outstanding Math and Science Teachers

Joan Christen of Beatrice and David Hartman of Lincoln are among 97 teachers named recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

President Obama recently announced the names of the recipients. The educators will receive their awards in Washington, DC, later this month.

Christen has taught science for grades 9-12 at Beatrice High School for the past nine years. Before teaching in Beatrice, Christen taught science for grades 7-12 for seven years at Southeast School in Stella.

David Hartman has taught mathematics at Lincoln Southwest High School for 10 years, since it first opened in 2002. He spent the first seven years of his teaching career at Robin Mickle Middle School.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. The 2011 awardees named today teach 7th through 12th grades.

Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited Washington, DC, for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and the Administration.

President Obama has committed to strengthen science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and prepare 100,000 effective science and mathematics teachers over the next decade. These commitments build on the President's "Educate to Innovate" campaign, which has attracted more than \$700 million in donations and in-kind support from corporations, philanthropies, service organizations, and others to help bolster science and technology education in the classroom.

"America's success in the 21st century depends on our ability to educate our children, give our workers the skills they need, and embrace technological change. That starts with the men and women in front of

our classrooms. These teachers are the best of the best, and they stand as excellent examples of the kind of leadership we need in order to train the next generation of innovators and help this country get ahead,” said President Obama.

The list of recipients of the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is available at: <https://recognition.paemst.org/awardees> .