

2015 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR: SHELBY AABERG



Aaberg is a 10-year veteran teacher who earned a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master's Degree in mathematics education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha as well as endorsements in Assessment Leadership and English as a Second Language. Aaberg started the Scottsbluff High School's Math Club and has been the sprint coach since 2006. He is active in professional organizations, including the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics, the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education, the Scottsbluff Education Association and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Aaberg is currently a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Aaberg as the 2015 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled. Teachers selected have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Aaberg and the Awards of Excellence winners were honored by the State Board of Education at a luncheon in November. Aaberg participated in the National Teacher of the Year competition in December.

QUOTES FROM SHELBY:

"I want my energy and passion for mathematics to shine through my instruction and infect my students. I teach my students that sound logic, effective strategies and consistent effort are the primary determinants of success in my classroom."

"I teach my students how to think, not just to comply. No idea any student offers is ever wrong, some ideas are just easier to disprove or refute."

"I have a true love for learning that also influenced my teaching career. I make it a point to learn something new every day."

"I invest my time, energy and content expertise to equip my students to realize their potential. I enjoy teaching most when I help my students overcome fear of failure and when my students learn to work past frustration."

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2015 NEBRASKA Teacher of the Year

SHELBY AABERG
Mathematics Teacher
Scottsbluff High School
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Collaborative Teaching

Technology is transforming the work of teachers. Teachers are increasingly expected to work cooperatively, sometimes spontaneously without formal training on how to work in groups. This session will address effective strategies for cooperative lesson planning and creation of a supportive team environment in which teachers – and students – will thrive.

Using Assessment to Inform Instruction

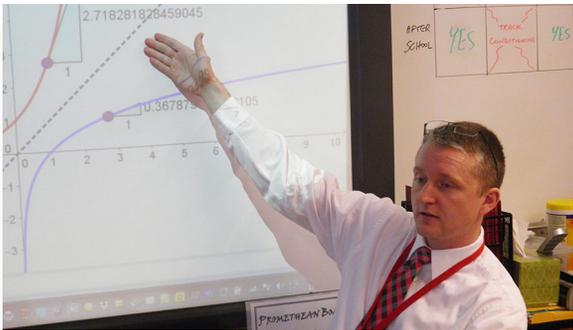
Grade computation software does not free teachers from the responsibility to make informed professional judgments about student learning based on evidence. Many life trajectories suffer from overreliance on standardized testing, summative evaluation, and viewing grades as merely values that populate fields in a spreadsheet. During this workshop, participants will learn about formative assessment and how teachers and administrators can utilize summative and standardized measures to impact student achievement.

Big Data: Why Statistics Instruction Matters

Big Data will affect every student's future. Students will inherit a world in which they will be the decision makers with respect to privacy. In this session we will investigate how statistics instruction can develop critical consumer competencies within students, unlock students' passion for learning, and equip students with robust strategies for making predictions about the world and their future.

May the Odds Be Ever in the Back of Your Textbook

We often ask students: "What do you want to do when you grow up?" Instead we should ask: "What problem do you want to solve?" Students will not likely be paid to solve problems with answers in the back of a textbook. Our charge as math teachers is to prepare students for jobs that do not yet exist. Therefore, math instruction must evolve. This session will provide examples of community involvement and problem-based learning in the math classroom.



Photos courtesy of NSEA & Scottsbluff High School