

Dan has been a teacher in the Hastings Public Schools for the past 33 years. He spent one year teaching Industrial Arts in the Hershey Public Schools prior to this assignment. In his first six years in Hastings, he taught woodworking along with Mechanical and Architectural Drafting that he continues to teach today. Dan received his Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney State College) with a major in Industrial Arts education. He earned his Master of Science degree in Vocational Education-Trades and Industry Drafting at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (Kearney State College). Dan has served as the Curricular Chair of the Industrial Technology Department at Hastings Public Schools for the last eleven years.

Dan believes an educator should be involved with professional organizations; therefore he has served in various capacities in the Local Education Association (LEA) throughout his years of teaching. He has also been active over the years with the Nebraska Industrial Technology Education Association (NITEA). Serving as President of the NITEA, organizing the annual conference and banquet, with the help of the instructors from his department, Executive Committee, local businesses and instructors from the neighboring city provided a very memorable experience. These experiences have led to the receiving of the Nebraska Industrial Technology Education Association's Teacher of the Year Award, International Technology Education Association's Teacher Excellence Award, and the Knights of Columbus Council 1123 High School Teacher of the Year Award.

*"To become a good teacher, I feel you need to let your students know you care about them by forming a true connection."*

-Dan McCarthy

*"My rewards as a teacher come from my students when they return to let me know of the impact I and other teachers have had on their career choice or their lives."*



*"I am the teacher I am today because of the many master teachers I met and worked with when I entered the teaching profession."*

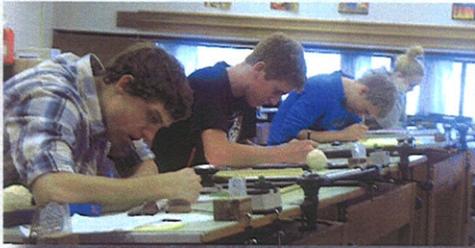
*"It is truly amazing what students will do for you when they know and feel you care about them as individuals."*

### **NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**

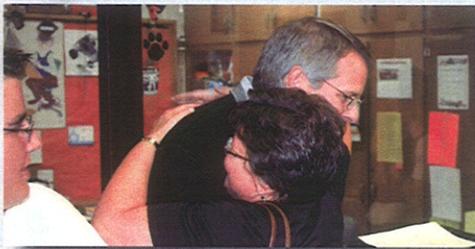
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska State Board of Education
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska
- Nebraska Association of School Boards
- Nebraska Council of School Administrators
- Nebraska Parent Teacher Association
- Nebraska State Education Association
- SMARTer Kids Foundation
- Dillard's Department Store #60, Westfield Shopping Town

**2009**  
*Nebraska*  
**Teacher of the Year**

*Dan McCarthy*  
**Industrial Arts Teacher  
Hastings High School  
Hastings, Nebraska**



*“Teaching is about knowing you can and do make a difference in a student’s life.”*



# Workshop

## Presentations

### **TRADITIONAL AND TECHNICAL MIX**

The ever changing technology available for use within our classrooms has had a major impact on the field of Industrial Technology. Industrial technology instructors have focused on technological innovations and exposed our students to as much hardware and software as time and money permit. However, we have learned that it is also beneficial to continue the utilization of some of the best practice, traditional methods that have proven valuable to student instruction.

### **STUDENT CONNECTION**

This presentation will share what I have learned about the importance of connecting with students. Early in my teaching career, I observed how my successful colleagues formed quality relationships with their students. I recognized the power of these connections and decided to make this concept a part of my teaching. Student work within the classroom will be at a higher level when students know you care and take an interest in them both in and out of the classroom.

### **WELL ROUNDED EDUCATION**

Many students have demonstrated to me, over my 34 years of teaching, the value of a well-rounded education. In discussion with colleagues, we have discovered the value of a student participating in a mix of elective and academic classes. A good combination of coursework helps prepare a well-rounded individual for success as a citizen, student or worker.

### **WHAT I HAVE LEARNED**

My life has, of course, been filled with learning experiences. My most recent learning experience was the announcement that I would be the 2009 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. Since that day, I have learned and been reminded how many lives teachers touch—and that “touch” isn’t always subject -matter related. We can all think of teachers that have made a difference in our lives and the lives of others. This experience gave me the push I needed to call some of those teachers and say “thank you” and “you made a difference in my life.” We all need to do this!