

# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEWS RELEASE

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## NORTH BEND CENTRAL JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER NAMED 2011 NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Bob Feurer, a North Bend Central Junior-Senior High School teacher, was named the 2011 Nebraska Teacher of the Year during a surprise presentation today.

Nebraska Commissioner of Education Roger Breed presented the award to Feurer.

Feurer was one of five Nebraska Teacher of the Year finalists.

The following teachers were finalists and will be recognized as Awards of Excellence winners:

- Nicholas Kleve, a fifth grade teacher at E. N. Swett Elementary School in South Sioux City.
- Dan Widick, a high school teacher at Eustis-Farnam High School in Eustis.
- Michael Musil, an English/language arts teacher at Lincoln North Star High School in Lincoln.
- Clark Kolterman, an English/speech teacher at Seward High School in Seward.

“I try to make my students scientists, not teach them science,” Feurer wrote recently. “I do not want my junior students to study biology, I want them to become biologists.

“Those same students need to know how to be intelligent,” he also wrote. “So many studies are now saying that intelligence is not really an inherited characteristic but that it can be ‘earned’ with the proper training.”

In a letter of recommendation, a colleague and a former local school board member jointly wrote: “Mr. Feurer is an amazing educator. In his career at North Bend Central for almost 30 years, he has prepared more than 60 students for science professions. If you were to ask any of those doctors, physician assistants, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, radiologists or PhDs of research what they thought of his teaching, I am sure they would tell you how he was able to challenge, motivate and inspire them in all of his classes.”

Feurer received his undergraduate degree and a Master’s Degree in science from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He teaches science grades 7 through 12 at North Bend Central Junior/Senior High

School. Feurer is a member of numerous professional associations including the Nebraska Earth Science Education Network steering committee, national and state education associations, the Nebraska Academy of Science and served as president of the North Bend Central Education Association as well as the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Feurer as the 2011 Nebraska Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year program recognizes the contributions of classroom teachers who are exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled and teachers who have the ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Feurer and other Awards of Excellence winners will be honored by the State Board of Education at a luncheon on Nov. 2 at the Nebraska State Education Association in Lincoln. Feurer will participate in the national Teacher of the Year competition later this year.