



NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer 402.471.4537 or

betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov

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OMAHA WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TEACHER NAMED NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Angela Mosier, an Omaha Westside Community Schools high school mathematics teacher, was named Nebraska 2013 Teacher of the Year today during a surprise award presentation.

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

Mosier was one of four Nebraska Teacher of the Year finalists. The following teachers were finalists and will be recognized as Awards of Excellence winners:

- Pat Olson, Blair Community Schools high school business education teacher.
- Sandi Seckel, Columbus Public Schools second grade teacher at West Park Elementary.
- Judith Ann Stucky, Omaha Westside Community Schools high school science teacher.

Mosier has been teaching mathematics at Westside Community Schools since 1999. Mosier described herself as a life-long learner who always enjoyed being in class and learning something new. She said the major issue in public education today is the achievement gap between groups of students. "We have to close the gap one teacher at a time," she wrote. "A single group of teachers in one school has the power to close the achievement gap if they analyze achievement data, collaborate to re-write curriculum and identify effective instructional strategies that increase achievement for all students."

When encouraged by a college advisor, Mosier decided to study physics as well as mathematics so she could be a positive role model for girls by teaching in a male dominated area. "Math and physics it was; but today I use art to make 'math' more visual ... and physics to explain the 'why' behind the mathematics. I want students to understand math because they 'see' what is going on and how it is useful rather than because they can write numbers or work formulas on paper."

"I want students to know that I support them as a 'whole person' and not just as a mathematician," she wrote.

Maryanne Ricketts, Westside High School principal, said Mosier "works tirelessly to meet the unique needs of all students in her classroom. She designs and implements rigorous, interesting lessons that create multiple opportunities for students to experience success."

Mosier received both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in secondary education and holds National Board Certification in early adolescence mathematics.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Mosier as the 2013 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.

Mosier and the Awards of Excellence winners will be honored by the State Board of Education at a luncheon on Nov. 8 at the Nebraska State Education Association in Lincoln. Mosier will participate in the national Teacher of the Year competition later this year.