



NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 19, 2015

MILLARD WEST HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER NAMED NEBRASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Tim Royers, a social studies teacher at Millard West High School, was named Nebraska 2016 Teacher of the Year today during a surprise award presentation.

Nebraska Commissioner of Education Matt Blomstedt and Deputy Commissioner Deborah Frison presented the award.

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

- Lori Boudreau of Papillion-La Vista High School in Papillion
- Lynn Hill of Millard South High School in Omaha
- Daniel Schaben of Arapahoe Public School in Arapahoe
- Jayson Stoddard of Hastings Middle School in Hastings

Royers graduated from Millard West High School in 2003 and returned “home” to his alma mater as a social studies teacher in 2007. In addition to social studies, Royers has served as a debate coach since 2007, but stepped down this year to focus more on his classroom and to begin teaching all Advanced Placement courses offered by the school’s social studies department. Royers wrote in his Teacher of the Year application that the objectives he sets for himself each school year are “entirely centered around the students.”

“What I want them to take away is the ability to think critically, to consider multiple perspectives, to be able to assess causation over an extended period of time,” he wrote. He said the number of his students who take upper level electives in Advanced Placement European History and World History after leaving his classroom demonstrates his success at inspiring his students. “Passing my passion for learning on to the next generation,” he said, is his greatest contribution to education.

Royers is an eight-year veteran teacher who earned a Bachelor’s Degree from Northwest Missouri State University and a Master’s Degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

A panel of Nebraska educators selected Royers as the 2016 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.

Royers and the Awards of Excellence winners will be honored by the State Board of Education at a November luncheon. Royers will participate in the national Teacher of the Year competition later this year.