



Millard North High School Orchestra Director Receives Nebraska's 2018-19 Music Educator Award

LINCOLN – Debbie Martinez of Millard North High School has been named Nebraska's National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) 2018-19 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Martinez was nominated for the NFHS award by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) in collaboration with the Nebraska Music Educators Association (NMEA). Nominations are based upon outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic music by high school or college music educators. The NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award was first given in 1989. Since then, 170 sectional and 305 state awards have been awarded.

Martinez holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska - Omaha and a Masters of Music Education from Florida State University. She is recognized as an outstanding music teacher, known for building excellent classroom culture. She has been a mainstay in the Millard School District with tenures in two elementary schools, Millard North Middle and currently at Millard North High School.

Martinez has built a career on the personal mission of "providing quality music education for every child." Her mission can be identified in the many curriculum building projects and orchestra camps that she has founded and led. She's also had a commitment to building upon new initiatives, and is often described as a founder, creator and leader in the music community. Martinez's string program has flourished with exponential growth in participation. It is the largest in Nebraska growing from 33 students to now over 190 string players.

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Martinez was honored and presented with the award in Lincoln at the Nebraska Music Educators Association annual awards banquet on November 15th.

Nebraska's NFHS Music Educator Award Winners since 2002

- 2002 - Bryan Johnson, Oakland-Craig High School
- 2003 - Dean Dahlke, Bertrand High School
- 2004 - Gene Torrens, Elkhorn High School
- 2005 - Dr. Michelle Bluford, Elkhorn High School
- 2006 - Fred Ritter, Columbus High School
- 2007 - Sharon Hoffman, Bayard Public Schools
- 2008 - Byron Braasch, Lewis & Clark Middle School
- 2009 - Stan Johnson, Shickley Public Schools
- 2010 - Dave Klein, Kearney Public Schools
- 2011 - Cheri Helmer-Rienschke, Papillion-La Vista South High School
- 2012 - William Reichert, Broken Bow High School
- 2013 - Cheri Helmer-Rienschke, *Regional Winner*, Papillion-La Vista South
- 2013 - Rita Stinner, Western Nebraska Community College
- 2014 - Rex Barker, Millard South High School
- 2015 - Patricia Ritchie, Millard West High School
- 2016 - Denise Cotton, Lincoln Southwest High School
- 2017 - Tom Jaworski, *Regional Winner*, Adams Central High School
- 2018 - Debbie Martinez, Millard North High School