



Music Director Tom Jaworski Receives National & State Recognition

LINCOLN – Former Adams Central High School Instrumental Music Director Tom Jaworski has been named the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Section 5 and Nebraska’s 2017-18 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Jaworski 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 when seven individuals received sectional awards. Since then, 170 sectional and 305 state awards have been awarded. Also, 1989 marked the beginning of an annual selection of a NFHS Citation recipient. The Citation is one of the highest awards presented by the NFHS in the fine arts. Jaworski will be considered for the Citation next summer.

Jaworski holds a Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. He is recognized as an outstanding music teacher that strived to develop music programs that grew personal development amongst students, pride in the local school and brought national recognition to the community through performances across the country. In his 43 years of teaching, Jaworski made his impact at Genoa, Aurora, Weeping Water and Adams Central High School. He has served for the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association (NSBA) or NMEA in some capacity since 1974.

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Over the years Jaworski has earned numerous professional honors and accomplishments including: High School Teacher of the Year, the NSBA's "Donald A. Lentz Award," the Nebraska Department of Education's "Award of Excellence Teacher" and he was inducted into the NMEA Hall of Fame. His students have performed nationally at multiple Presidential Inaugural Parades, in the Nebraska Statehood festivities in the Capitol Rotunda and have received countless Superior Ratings and All-State Band recognition.

Jaworski was honored and presented with the awards in Lincoln at the Nebraska Music Educators Association annual awards banquet on November 17th.

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-Riensche, Papillion-La Vista South High School
- 2012 - William Reichert, Broken Bow High School
- 2013 - Cheri Helmer-Riensche, *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