



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LINCOLN, NE — The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) is proud to recognize Heath Ahrens of Pleasanton Public Schools as this week's "Above and Beyond" Award recipient.

A true pillar of dedication, service, and leadership, Mr. Ahrens exemplifies what it means to go the extra mile—not only for his students, but for his school, community, and the future of agriculture in Nebraska.

Since joining Pleasanton four years ago, Mr. Ahrens has poured heart and soul into everything he does. As an FFA

advisor, assistant football coach, bus driver, maintenance helper, and more, he wears many hats—and wears them all with humility and a can-do attitude.

From clearing snow and ice in the early morning hours, to hopping behind the wheel of a bus when the district is short a driver, to staying late to help maintain the building, Mr. Ahrens is the kind of person who steps up without being asked. His actions speak louder than words—and they speak volumes about his commitment to his school and his community.

One of his most transformative contributions has been the launch and growth of the Pleasanton FFA Chapter. Under his leadership, the program has flourished, becoming a vibrant and active part of the school and surrounding community. Mr. Ahrens led the effort to fund and build the school's greenhouse, providing students with hands-on agricultural experiences and extending FFA's impact well beyond the classroom.



Each spring and holiday season, his students deliver flower planters to local businesses and poinsettias to the sick and elderly, spreading joy and fostering community pride. It's these kinds of heartfelt efforts—led by Mr. Ahrens—that make Pleasanton stronger and more connected.

“There aren't too many weeks where Mr. Ahrens isn't at school all seven days,” shared a colleague. “He is always there, always helping, always showing up for others. He's a positive role model, an incredible educator, and a steward of our community.”

Mr. Ahrens is known throughout Buffalo County as a friendly face and a helping hand. His influence reaches beyond students—it inspires staff, families, and neighbors alike. His work ethic, servant leadership, and relentless positivity have made a lasting impact, and the NSAA is proud to honor him with this well-deserved recognition.