

STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release Tuesday, August 4 For More Information: Elaine Watkins-Miller, 515-281-5651 elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov

Iowa Department of Education Honors Iowa Math and Science Teachers

Teachers from Iowa City, Des Moines, Ottumwa, and Cedar Rapids school districts recognized.

DES MOINES, Iowa – Today the Iowa Department of Education honored this year's state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) during a luncheon at the Science Center of Iowa in Des Moines.

The finalists in science are Kevin Koepnick of City High School, Iowa City, and Jessica Gogerty, North High School, Des Moines. The finalists in math are Brooke Fischels of Ottumwa High School, Ottumwa, and Matt Miller of Washington High School, Cedar Rapids.

The Iowa finalists' applications have been submitted to the national selection committee and one math and one science awardee may be selected to represent Iowa. Awardees receive \$10,000 and a week-long trip to Washington, DC, where they will be recognized in several ceremonies and have an opportunity to meet President Barack Obama.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Enacted by Congress in 1983, this program authorizes the President to bestow up to 108 awards each year. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Awards are given to mathematics and science teachers from each of the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. The teachers are recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science.

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Iowa Department of Education

News Release

Page 2 of 2

The lowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.