



**Lincoln East High School Orchestra Director Receives Nebraska's  
2020-21 Music Educator Award**

LINCOLN – Del Whitman of Lincoln East High School has been named Nebraska's National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) 2020-21 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Whitman 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.

Whitman holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education & Cello Performance from Southern Illinois University, and a Masters Degree in Music Education from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. In 1986 he began teaching in the Lincoln Public Schools system. He is recognized and known for his servant leadership having served in five different associations over a 35-year period. Whitman's humility, professionalism, and excellence have been a beacon of light and support for those he has taught and worked with.

Along with his numerous accolades, Whitman has been a cooperating teacher for 27 student teachers and over 80 practicum teachers from eight colleges/universities. His passion and desire to train future music educators has greatly contributed to the future of music education.

Whitman was honored with the award during a recent presentation at Lincoln East High School.

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### **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
- 2019 - Brad Ronne, Scottsbluff High School
- 2020 - Del Whitman, Lincoln East High School