



**Lincoln Public Schools Music Supervisor Receives Nebraska's
2021-22 Music Educator Award**

LINCOLN – Dr. Lance Nielsen of Lincoln Public Schools has been named Nebraska's National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) 2021-22 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Dr. Nielsen 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.

Nielsen obtained his Educational Administration Certificate and Doctor of Philosophy in Music from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Nielsen's career began in Kimball Public Schools in 1991 teaching 5-12 instrumental music. His career path includes stops at the Norris School District, Lincoln East High School and Doane College. In 2014 he became the Music Supervisor for Lincoln Public Schools where he oversees the district preK-12 music programs.

Dr. Nielsen has greatly contributed to music education in Nebraska, nationally and abroad. In addition to anchoring award-winning music programs within his district, Nielsen continues to impact music education as a clinician, speaker, and author. Nielsen is praised for his innovative and servant leadership that drew high remarks during the past year in working through the pandemic.

Nielsen was honored with the award at the Nebraska Music Educators Association annual awards banquet held on November 18th.

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
- 2021 - Dr. Lance Nielsen, Lincoln Public Schools