



### **Omaha Westside High School Vocal Director Receives Nebraska's 2022-23 Music Educator Award**

LINCOLN – Doran Johnson of Omaha Westside High School has been named Nebraska's National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) 2022-23 Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Johnson 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.

Johnson obtained his Bachelor of Music in Education from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Nebraska - Omaha. Johnson's career began in Grundy Center, Iowa in 1988 teaching 6-12 vocal music. In 1998 Johnson moved to Omaha Westside High School to lead the 9-12 vocal department.

Johnson's primary goals have remained constant through 35 years of teaching. He prides himself in using music to make a difference in the lives of his students and inspire them to reach excellence in their personal lives. Additionally, Johnson strives to motivate his students to enjoy their music journey, whether the novice or mastery experience. He is known for creating an environment where students can become leaders and provide a voice in the learning process.

Johnson was honored with the award at the Nebraska Music Educators Association annual awards banquet held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

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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
- 2021 - Dr. Lance Nielsen, Lincoln Public Schools
- 2022 - Doran Johnson, Omaha Westside High School