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North Kansas City Schools Staff Development Announces 2008 Star Award Recipients

KANSAS CITY NORTH ... North Kansas City Schools Staff Development has named recipients of their annual awards program, An Evening with the Stars, held May 5.

Named winner of the **Joanne Beebe Vision Award** was **Lyn Weatherly**, a



7th grade communication arts teacher at Northgate Middle School. The **Vision Award** identifies best practices and honors excellence in professional development.

The award honored Weatherly for her ability to provide strategies, both old and new, to help her students

achieve. Weatherly has facilitated and taught the Step Up to Writing strategies at both



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the district and state level, assisting other communication arts teachers in implementing these effective strategies in their classrooms.

Also nominated for the Vision award were **Lori Dameron**, a gifted resource specialist from Oak Park High School, and **Debra Roe**, an elementary music teacher from Topping Elementary.

New Mark Middle School received the **Outstanding Staff Development Program** award for its ability to complement the district staff development focus, while addressing goals laid out in the school's improvement plan and focusing on professional development needs identified by last year's building staff development survey. The program has integrated the eight-step process, mastery learning, various research-based instructional strategies, and literacy and technology to create a professional development environment focused on student achievement and enhanced classroom instruction.

Other schools nominated for their Staff Development programs included **Fox Hill Elementary** and **Topping Elementary**.

Melissa Duffett (below), a communication arts teacher at Antioch Middle School, was named **Staff Developer of the Year**. Nominees for the award were evaluated on their leadership experience, involvement in staff development activities and their



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individual accomplishments based on the National Staff Development Council Standards.

Others nominated in this category were

Allison Cline, a 7th grade math teacher at Northgate Middle School; **Cara Mace**, a 3rd grade teacher at Maplewood Elementary; **Charlene Steadman**, a 2nd grade teacher at Linden West Elementary; and **Sandra Woolen**,

a Modern Language teacher at Oak Park High School.



Named recipient of the **Rising Star Award** was **Rene Cooper** (left), Project EXCELL facilitator at Doolin. Cooper was recognized for her compassion, creativity and dedication to her students and the consideration she gives to the needs of all ELL families.

Others nominated for the Rising Star Award were **Amy Barron**, a 4th grade teacher

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at West Englewood Elementary; **Denise Thessen**, a 4th grade teacher at Topping Elementary; **Mark Riggs**, a math teacher at Eastgate Middle School; and **Sara Weikel**, a 3rd grade teacher at Maplewood Elementary. This is the fourth year for the award that recognizes individuals who have assumed new leadership roles in service to staff development.



Finally, Staff Development named **Molly LaBoube**, a geometry teacher from Winnetonka High School, for the **Susan Young Beginning Teacher Award**. LaBoube, seen in

the photo above with Susan Young, was credited for having been a leader, collaborator and coach whose curriculum mastery allows her to create lessons that routinely capture her students' attention, and stimulate them to excel in the classroom.

Also nominated for the award were **Colleen DiGregorio**, communication arts teacher at North Kansas City High School; **Brandon Greason**, a science and communication arts teacher at Golden Oaks Education Center; **Katie Fowler**, a 3rd grade



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teacher at Gracemor Elementary; **Jennifer Kasserman**, an art teacher at Gashland Elementary; **Jennifer Lanfranca**, a 1st grade teacher at Linden West Elementary; **Vanna Mergenhagen**, a 1st grade teacher at Oakwood Manor Elementary; **Carol Peterson**, a 7th grade math teacher at Maple Park Middle School; and **Lyndsy Richmond**, a 5th grade teacher at Fox Hill Elementary.

The Susan Young Beginning Teacher Award was renamed last year to honor long-time educator, Susan Young.

Local businesses that contributed to the evening event included Alamo Restaurant and Lounge, Alfredo's Place, Carlitos Mexican Food, El Maguey Mexican Restaurant, El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant, Jose Pepper's Border Grill and Cantina, Margarita's and Senor Tequila.

For more information about the Evening with the Stars event, contact the **Staff Development Dept.** at **(816) 413-5066**.

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