

JOHN A. GALE

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Lincoln teacher wins civics education award

LINCOLN – Lincoln teacher Scott Bendler is the 2009 recipient of the Civics Recognition Award presented by Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale for exemplary efforts to enhance civics education.

Bendler teaches social studies at Lincoln's Bryan Community, a focus school. He has been a teacher for 26 years, including 14 years at Bryan Community.

Gale cited Bendler for his ambitious efforts to bring civics education to life for his students.

One of Bendler's initiatives is "Life Stories," an intergenerational oral history project. Students research, interview and produce video segments on the life stories of senior citizens.

Bendler stresses the importance of the election system to students. He brings students to the election office so they can observe the early-voting process and vote if they are eligible. He also encourages students to participate as election workers.

"It's a challenge to engage young people to be good citizens and participate in our democratic process," Gale said. "Scott Bendler demonstrates creativity, passion and leadership in encouraging students to become active and informed citizens."

Bendler was nominated for the award by Lancaster County Election Commissioner David Shively.

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