

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCCLUER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER RECEIVES NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD

Ken Holzapfel is a recipient of the California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence

FLORISSANT, Mo. (June 3, 2013) – McCluer High School special education teacher Ken Holzapfel is a recipient of the California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence, one of the nation's most prestigious honors for public school educators.

The Missouri Education Association, the National Education Association's (NEA) state affiliate in Missouri, nominated Holzapfel. As part of the honor, McCluer High School will receive a \$650 award. Holzapfel will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C. In addition, he will have the opportunity to participate in the Pearson Foundation Global Learning Fellowship which includes nine months of professional development and an all-expenses-paid study tour abroad in the summer of 2014.

Holzapfel is one of 38 state awardees who will be honored at the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala on Feb. 7, 2014. Known as the Academy Awards of public education, the gala attracts more than 850 of the nation's leaders from public education, philanthropy, and the private sector. From the 38 state awardees, five finalists will be selected to receive \$10,000 cash awards. At the conclusion of the Washington, D.C. gala, one finalist will be named the nation's top educator and receive an additional \$25,000.

About the Ferguson-Florissant School District

The Ferguson-Florissant School District, located in suburban St. Louis, serves more than 12,000 students from preschool through 12th grade with an excellent comprehensive educational program. Fully accredited by the state of Missouri, the Ferguson-Florissant School District operates 17 elementary schools, three middle schools, three A+ and AdvancED-accredited high schools and an alternative school. In addition, the District includes a nationally-recognized early education program, the award-winning Challenger Learning Center space education facility and the Little Creek Nature Area, a 97-acre nature preserve which offers experiential learning opportunities for students in science, biology, ecology and related areas of study.

###