



Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: (307) 777-7675 | Fax: (307) 777-6234 | Website: edu.wyoming.gov

PRESS Release

Local Teacher of the Year, Dustin Stephenson, Receives Accolades

Washakie County School District #2 teacher, Dustin Stephenson, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Stephenson, a teacher for 24 years, serves as art teacher at Ten Sleep School.

“Every student is capable of learning,” says Stephenson. “I have a great passion for art and teaching. I work very hard to pass this on. My expectations are high. Relationships are important. Connecting with students builds trust. I feel this is the key to success.”

Speaking about the teaching profession, Stephenson comments, “What I love about teaching is that art tends to be a release for children. Many schools are cutting fine arts programs. I believe if all teachers taught their subjects with passion, connection and love for their profession, all students would be successful.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Stephenson addresses this topic: “Common Core and testing go hand in hand. Teachers are focused on making sure they get things covered and in my opinion aren’t really connecting with the students. These teachers can lose their creativity and their connection with students.”

Stephenson, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Department of Education, says, “Teachers have one of the most important jobs, if not the most important job in this nation. Why did we choose this profession? I chose teaching because I love children.”