



Wyoming Department of Education

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PRESS Release

Local Teacher of the Year, Christine Zakotnik, Receives Accolades

Sublette County School District #1 teacher, Christine Zakotnik, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Zakotnik, a teacher for 13 years, serves as math teacher at Pinedale High School.

“I think that one of my lasting contributions to education is my attempt to create an atmosphere of knowledge, safety and stability in my classroom,” says Zakotnik. “I attempt to infuse as much energy and humor as I can each day.” Zakotnik also speaks about her work with ACT. “A lasting legacy is my work with ACT. I present my ACT strategies sessions to students in other teachers’ classrooms.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Zakotnik addresses this topic: “Teachers should absolutely be held accountable, but only for those factors over which they have control. Teachers must be accountable for creating and maintaining a healthy, constructive, and challenging environment. This is observable to administrators who spend a great deal of time in classrooms.”

Zakotnik, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education, says, “My message would be the importance of teaching students how to read in the content area. These skills were never taught to me in high school or college and I only learned them while attending training. Our students need to be purposefully and directly taught how to read and analyze textual information. The reading skills promoted by our standards are valuable and what we would want all students to achieve.”