

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**October 2014**

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF
CHRIS HOLMES MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 3:**

Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.

SUMMARY:

The Department recently announced the selection of high school teacher Chris Holmes of the Hazelwood School District as Missouri's Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015. As a result of this recognition, Mr. Holmes also becomes Missouri's candidate for the 2015 National Teacher of the Year program.

Mr. Holmes has been teaching for 13 years and has been in his present position at Hazelwood West High School since 2006. He was chosen from a field of seven finalists following personal interviews that were conducted by a twelve-member selection committee on August 22, 2014.

Mr. Holmes earned a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications from Truman State University, Kirksville and post-graduate work through the Joseph Pulitzer Teaching Fellowship from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Ms. Holmes and the six state finalists in this year's program will be formally honored by the Department on Monday, October 27, 2014, at a banquet in Jefferson City.

PRESENTER(S):

Paul Katnik, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Quality, will assist with the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that the State Board of Education adopt the proposed resolution.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution

Whereas, Chris Holmes has been selected as Missouri's Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015 and will represent more than 68,000 public school teachers across the state in the National Teacher of the Year Program; and

Whereas, Mr. Holmes has taught journalism at Hazelwood West High School in Hazelwood since 2006 where he is recognized as a superior teacher who builds strong relationships with his students and helps them go beyond their own expectations to reach higher levels of learning; and

Whereas, Mr. Holmes strives to ensure his students gain the knowledge and skills they need for the future by providing opportunities for them to interact with different communities, cultures and complexities in America; and

Whereas, Mr. Holmes creates a productive classroom atmosphere where students are noticed and valued and in turn, work, learn and show respect to both classmates and themselves; and

Whereas, Mr. Holmes is committed to making students better readers, writers and thinkers; teaching them relevant information and modeling its application; redirecting poor choices and reinforcing wise decisions; and doing all of these with "illogical patience"; and

Whereas, Mr. Holmes understands the important relationship between a school and the community it serves and reaches out to establish effective partnerships with parents and community members to promote excellence in education; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Missouri State Board of Education formally commends Chris Holmes on his selection as Missouri's Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015, and extends its congratulations to Mr. Holmes, his students and the Hazelwood School District; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board expresses its deep appreciation to Mr. Holmes for his commitment to excellence in teaching and for his outstanding service to his students, school district, community and public education in Missouri.

Presented October 28, 2014, at Jefferson City, Missouri



Peter F. Herschend, President
Missouri State Board of Education