

**CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF
DARRION COCKRELL, MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

PRIORITY AREA

Educator Recruitment & Retention

SUMMARY

The Department recently announced the selection of Mr. Darrion Cockrell (DC), an elementary school physical education and health teacher in the Lindbergh School District, as Missouri’s Teacher of the Year for 2021. As a result of this recognition, Mr. Cockrell also becomes Missouri’s candidate for the 2021 National Teacher of the Year program.

Mr. Cockrell has been teaching for 9 years and has been in his current position at Crestwood Elementary School since 2015. He was chosen from a field of seven finalists following personal interviews conducted by a 12-member selection committee.

Mr. Cockrell earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education from the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Mr. Cockrell, the six state finalists, eight state semifinalists, and 19 regional teachers of the year in this year’s Teacher of the Year program were formally honored by the Department on Monday, October 15, 2020, at a virtual recognition hosted from Jefferson City.

PRESENTER

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education adopt the proposed resolution.

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Resolution

Whereas, Darrion Cockrell has been selected as Missouri's Teacher of the Year for 2021 and will represent more than 69,000 public school teachers across the state in the National Teacher of the Year Program; and

Whereas, Mr. Cockrell teaches physical education to students at Crestwood Elementary School with enthusiasm, connecting with his students, serving as a role model to them and focusing on the importance of teamwork, integrity and lifetime fitness; and

Whereas, Mr. Cockrell challenges his students to do their best, pushing them to succeed, supporting them by attending their extracurricular activities, spending his lunchtime interacting with them, building their confidence and trust, and providing them with a safe space for positive academic achievement; and

Whereas, Chance the Rapper presented Mr. Cockrell with a 2020 National Box Tops for Education "Twilight Award" for his dedication, originality and creativity in helping his students thrive; and

Whereas, Mr. Cockrell created the "Crest-Fit" health and fitness program which has reached thousands of people across multiple platforms, and he continues to record and share his fun, inspiring fitness videos; and

Whereas, Mr. Cockrell is loved by his students, respected by parents and admired by his colleagues, he strives to always be available and lend a hand, connect fellow teachers to the community, and inspire and motivate all those around him; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Missouri State Board of Education formally commends Mr. Cockrell on his selection as Missouri's 2021 Teacher of the Year, and extends its congratulations to Mr. Cockrell, his students and the Lindbergh School District; and

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

Presented October 20, 2020, in Jefferson City, Missouri