

Two receive Presidential Award for Excellence

Two teachers from the NEWESD 101 region have been named recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Scott Cooley of University High School (Central Valley School District) and Jeff Wehr of Odessa High School (Odessa School District) were among 213 winners announced last week by the White House.

Cooley received the award in math; Wehr, in science.

Cooley has been a math teacher for 16 years and a member of the U-High faculty for 13. He teaches Geometry, Pre-Calculus and Calculus AB. He is the second consecutive

U-High teacher to win the presidential award, following Mike Conklin in 2015.



Cooley



Wehr

Wehr has been an educator for 19 years; 12 of those at Odessa. He teaches Integrated Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Programming and Advanced STEM Research Laboratory. In 2011, he was the NEWESD 101 regional Teacher of the Year and he also is the reigning Washington Science Teachers Association Teacher of the Year for high school education.



Presidential award winners are selected by a national panel of scientists, mathematicians and educators following an initial screening at the state level. Winners will be recognized in a Washington, D.C. ceremony September 8: <https://www.paemst.org/>

The presidential awards are administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

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