

EXCELLENT EDUCATORS

• TWO RUTLAND TEACHERS HONORED

Last spring, two Rutland School District teachers received teacher of the year awards.

Technology Coordinator Dale was awarded the TIE (Technology and Innovation in Education) Teacher of the Year Award and Social Science Teacher Lauren Olson received the South Dakota National History Day (NHD) Teacher of the Year.

"We are humbled and appreciative of Mr. Moeller and Mrs. Olson," Superintendent Carl Fahrenwald said, "that they have chosen to build their teaching careers at our school district."

"The honors for each teacher are appropriate and well deserved. Their work ethic and commitment to educating students at Rutland is what vaulted them."

Moeller, a 30-year veteran of the profession, was nominated for the TIE award by Olson. He is credited with bringing the first Apple computer to the Rutland School District in 1984 and his initiative in implementing technology in the district proved to be very insightful in the direction of the district.



"I think we tend to collect these 'high flying' teachers because of our unique atmosphere that allows for higher levels of engagement with students and thus the personalized student learning," Fahrenwald said.

Moeller was humbled by the award, which he received at the 2014 TIE conference, and said the nomination validated his efforts.

"It is nice to be recognized by your peers and the fact that they would take the time to nominate you is more satisfying than the award itself," Moeller said.

Olson, a teacher since 2008, her first year in Rutland, received her award at last spring's South Dakota National History Day contest.

"NHD has had a profound impact on my teaching style and the way that my students learn so I was very proud to be selected as their teacher of the year in South Dakota," Olson said.

Sixteen of Olson's Rutland students competed at South Dakota's NHD contest with five qualifying for the national contest in Washington, D.C. One of the students, Karee Wicks, won "Best Project" in the History of Agriculture and Rural Life category for her website: The Responsibility of Farmers in World War II.

The successes of students reflects the hard work of the teachers, which the Rutland School District takes pride in, said Fahrenwald.

"The size of our school means that teachers often function as 'one person departments' and are afforded a great deal of latitude to research and implement dynamic learning experiences for students," Fahrenwald said.

"The Rutland teaching staff in general has a long-standing, well-known reputation for their top-notch work in classrooms as dedicated professionals."

