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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Cloud Educator Named Recipient of \$15,000 Award for Excellence

Karlyn Doyle, a teacher at North Junior High in the St. Cloud Area School District was surprised April 8 with news that she is a recipient of a 2015 WEM Outstanding Educator Award as an Academic Challenge Coach, an honor that is accompanied by a \$15,000 award.

Doyle is one of six educators being honored by the WEM Foundation and Synergy & Leadership Exchange for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning. She is one of two recipients of the WEM Foundation's statewide Academic Challenge Coach Award, which recognizes teachers who are exemplary coaches of student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council.

Doyle has been teaching and coaching for 23 years. She currently teaches Spanish, Global Communication and Media Technology to students in grades 6-8 and coaches Community Problem Solving, a component of Future Problem Solving and Knowledge Bowl.

"Future Problem Solving is a competition, but Karlyn isn't concerned about the trophy. She's concerned about students growing and showing them how they create their own positive futures," said Cheryl Whitesitt, Executive Director of Minnesota Future Problem Solving Program (FPSP).

Doyle began coaching FPSP in 2005 but it wasn't until 2012 that Doyle introduced Community Problem Solving at her school. The last two years under Doyle's guidance the North Junior High Community Problem Solving team has finished first at the state competition. At regionals they placed sixth the first year and second place the following year! The program has quickly tripled in size in just three short years. "I believe that Community Problem Solving has grown so quickly because of my commitment to not only the success of the program, but to that of the students themselves," states Doyle.

"Through our Community Problem Solving projects we not only make our school a better place, but we become better people. Ms. Doyle has made me realize the importance and joy in helping others," said a student.

In addition to her teaching and coaching, Doyle serves on the district's scheduling committee, runs the school store and serves as the student council advisor.

In addition to the ***Academic Challenge Coach Award***, other educators are being honored with the ***Ethics in Education Award*** (exemplary educators who embody ethical behavior and promote ethical development for students through classroom or school activities, policies or curriculum) and the ***Teacher Achievement Award*** (exemplary teachers who support, inspire, and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement).

Educators are first nominated for the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program by students, parents, colleagues or community members. Those who accept the nomination provide additional information for consideration by Synergy & Leadership Exchange and a blue ribbon selection panel, which reviews and ranks the nominees.

In addition to the six statewide honorees, additional educators have been selected as regional honorees for 2015. These names will be announced in May.

Synergy & Leadership Exchange (Synergy) is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering collaboration to advance the development of ethical citizens, providing educational resources, and celebrating achievement and best practices in Minnesota schools, businesses and communities.

For more information on the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards Program and Synergy & Leadership Exchange, visit: www.synergyexchange.org.