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For immediate release

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Isanti Educator Named Recipient of \$15,000 Award for Excellence

Jackie Alderman, a teacher from Minnesota Center in the Cambridge-Isanti public schools was surprised April 10 with the news that she is a recipient of a 2015 WEM Outstanding Educator Award for Teacher Achievement, an honor that is accompanied by a \$15,000 award.

Alderman 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 Teacher Achievement Award, which recognizes exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement.

Alderman has been teaching for five years and currently teaches middle school English and Writing. Alderman's classroom is piloting an all paperless classroom district initiative by having all students utilize their own Chromebooks. Alderman has embraced the change, shifting curriculum to provide more hands on experiences and project based learning.

"Jackie's dedication is best summed up in a recent experience when she was away from school for one day. Through the paperless initiative Jackie was able to be out of the building while continually in tune with the classroom by viewing and commenting on her student's work," said Principal Randy Pauly.

"I am astounded by Jackie's ability to teach students not only the material, but challenge them to find their own identity. She completely understands the need of middle school students to be allowed to express themselves as young adults. She employs strategies which allow students to fill this need within a safe and encouraging environment," a colleague shared.

Alderman often reflects on the wise advice of her grandmother to motivate her to be the best she can be every day for her students. She remembers her grandmother telling her that everyone can learn. And not to let anyone convince her otherwise; that sometimes some of the kids just need a little more help. "My goal is to show students each and every day that they can be successful," shares Alderman.

In addition to the *Teacher Achievement Award*, two honorees are recognized 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 two with the *Academic Coach of the Year Award* (classroom teachers who are exemplary coaches of student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council).

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.