



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals Announces the 2025-2026 Outstanding “New” Principal of the Year: Matt Flynn, Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools

The Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals has selected **Matt Flynn as the 2025-2026 Outstanding New Principal of the Year**. This award is presented annually to a Principal who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their school, region, and state. The winner has demonstrated their enthusiasm for the Principalship and has support from students, parents, teachers, and peers.

Mr. Flynn received his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002. He later earned a Master’s of Education in Instructional Technology and Educational Administration from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Mr. Flynn has been in education since 2002. He started his career as a social studies teacher at Ashland-Greenwood Middle School. In 2008, he moved into the Technology Integration Specialist position. Finally, in 2021, he transitioned into the Middle School Principal position at Ashland-Greenwood Middle School, where he continues to lead and serve. During his principalship, he has been a member of the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA), the Nebraska State Association of Secondary School Principals (NSASSP), and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) for four years.

Mr. Jason Libal, Superintendent of Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools, praised Mr. Flynn by stating, “I believe Mr. Flynn’s greatest strength to be his uncanny ability to build powerful and positive relationships with those around him. This not only pertains to his students, but also to his peers. Matt has an ability and knack to make those around him feel comfortable. I believe this is due in part to his infectious and warm personality. This is especially true for his students. Matt’s students enjoy their learning experiences and working with Mr. Flynn in various capacities.” He continues by saying, “A second tremendous strength that Mr. Flynn holds is

his 'whatever it takes' attitude. Matt does not shy away from a challenge. Instead, he takes on challenges head-on and with great vigor. He is willing to go the extra mile to ensure the success of his students and his building.”

Mrs. Jennifer Smith, a teacher at Ashland-Greenwood Middle School, shared, “What makes Mr. Flynn so remarkable is not only his leadership skills but also the genuine care and heart he pours into our school community. He takes the time to know every student by name, celebrates their successes, and supports them through challenges. Whether greeting students at the door with a smile, cheering at after-school events, or quietly checking in with a child who needs encouragement, Mr. Flynn makes each student feel seen, valued, and loved.”

Kendra Craven, a parent and community member of Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools, added, “Another quality that makes Mr. Flynn exceptional is his reflective and forward-looking approach. He consistently considers how decisions will affect students' learning, staff development, and family engagement. He communicates openly and listens thoughtfully, ensuring parents feel welcomed into the process and valued as partners in education. That openness has built trust and strengthened the bond between school and community.”

Mr. Flynn humbly shared that he has been at Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools for twenty-three years, his wife is an alum of the district, and their three daughters go to school there. He added, “While I am humbled by this award, it is truly more about the staff, students, and the Ashland-Greenwood community. I’m thankful every day to be a Bluejay!”

Congratulations to Matt Flynn for his outstanding performance as a Middle School Principal at Ashland-Greenwood Middle School. NSASSP appreciates his contributions to the profession, and we are proud to name **Matt Flynn of Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools the 2025-2026 New Principal of the Year!**

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