South St. Paul teacher is 2019 Minnesota Teacher of the Year

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ST. PAUL, Minnesota. May 5, 2019 – Jessica Davis, a math teacher at South St. Paul Secondary School, is the 2019 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Davis is the 55th recipient of the prestigious award, and the first from the South St. Paul district.

An independent selection committee representing Minnesota leaders in education, business and government chooses the Minnesota Teacher of the Year from individuals who are nominated and who then choose to become a candidate.

"Every student deserves to be empowered by their own voice and elevated to their highest potential," Davis said. "Most important, they deserve educators who want the same."



"One measure a person can use when judging another is, would you trust your own children with this person?" wrote Luke V. Olson, a colleague at South St. Paul Secondary, in a letter of recommendation for Davis. "When my son was studying to become a teacher, he needed a mentor teacher, and asked me for advice.... I suggested Jess, because she exemplifies everything that I hope my son would become as a teacher."

Davis has been teaching since 2006, first at Harding High School in St. Paul and since 2009 at South St. Paul. She holds a bachelor's degree from the Minnesota State, Mankato, and a master's degree from Hamline University.

Education Minnesota, the 86,000-member statewide educators union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers and Adult Basic Education teachers from public or private schools. The Minnesota Teacher of the Year Program also receives support from the following organizations: The Harvard Club of Minnesota

Foundation, United Educators Credit Union, McDonald's Restaurants of Minnesota, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors and Education Minnesota ESI.

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