

Champion Middle School Teacher Recognized as K-12 Environmental Educator of the Year

From outdoor learning labs to Science Club, Dave Murduck embodies teaching beyond the classroom

[Bristolville, OH, November 13, 2019] Dave Murduck was already awarded the 2016 Arthur Holden Jennings Science Award for Excellence, a top four finalist in the Ohio Teacher of the Year program and the Environmental Education Council of Ohio's 2018 Outstanding Environmental Educator in the Field of Formal Education. The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) added national recognition to that list by naming him the 2019 K-12 Environmental Educator of Year.

Murduck was recognized for his work to create a learning lab that monitors stormwater drainage in a local prairie and wetland, which required securing funding for plugs, seeds and equipment.

"My success involves having partnerships with multiple stakeholders," said Murduck. "Working with the school district, members of the community and informal educators has allowed me to offer amazing stewardship projects and opportunities for my students."

Murduck has contributed to his community and the field in other ways during his more than 20 years as a teacher. He advises Champion Middle School's Science Club, Champion High School's Envirothon Team and leads a community-based, annual Science Day to teach participating students about stream quality and biodiversity at the tributary of the Grand River and Lake Erie watershed.

The K-12 Environmental Education of the Year Award honors formal educators who have provided more than 10 years of dedicated service to the field of environmental education. Murduck began teaching in 2001 and has remained dedicated to environmental education ever since, even obtaining a professional certification in Environmental Education from the Environmental Education Council of Ohio.

"Dave Murduck exemplifies the key characteristics of an outstanding environmental educator," said Judy Braus, Executive Director of NAAEE. "He uses creativity in the classroom, facilitates student learning and community engagement, and demonstrates the importance of modeling leadership and collaboration. His students are so lucky to have him as their teacher and mentor."

This award was presented at NAAEE's 48th Annual Conference in Lexington, KY with 10 other awards that recognize exemplary individuals and organizations in the field of environmental education.

About NAAEE

For nearly five decades, the [North American Association for Environmental Education](http://naaee.org) has led efforts to use the power of education to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement and create a more equitable and sustainable future. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators and 56 state, regional and provincial affiliate organizations working in environmental education in more than 30 countries.

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