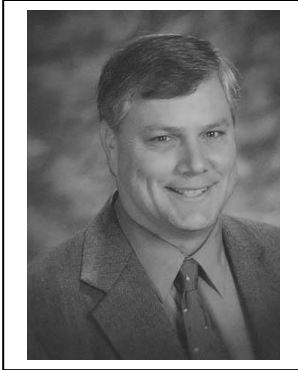


## 2009 Oregon Technology Educator of the Year Mark Gullickson, Central Elementary School



This year's recipient of the Oregon Technology Educator of the Year Award is Mark Gullickson, a 4th and 5th grade teacher at Central Elementary School in the Greater Albany School District. Mark teaches classes including Introduction to LEGO Physics and Robotics; Integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as it relates to Environmental Science and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP); Introduction to Basic Elementary Mathematical 3-D Graphing and Modeling; Annenberg Foundation – Journey North International Tulip Study; 4th and 5th Grade Basic Integrated STEM; After School STEM club for girls. He has also coached First LEGO League for six years.

Mark is a highly motivated elementary/middle school educator who strives to engage creativity and higher-order thinking skills in students by providing multiple opportunities to learn, explore, integrate, and collaboratively use a wide variety of technology both inside and outside the classroom. He captures the imagination and creativity of students regardless of their first language (ELL), gender, economic backgrounds, or special education designations by making technology engaging, challenging, and relevant to their daily lives.

As a result, countless numbers of his students have shared a similar reaction over the past five years: "Now I know what it feels like to be doing 'real' science!"

For this reason, on average, more than 90% of his students have met or exceeded State of Oregon grade level annual yearly progress scores in both math and reading each of the last five years.

Mark's efforts have been recognized with his selection by the Oregon Education Association as a 2008-2009 Oregon "Promising Practices" best practices educator; by the Annenberg Media Foundation - Journey North International Tulip Study as the 2008-2009 United States international STEM exchange classroom; by OSU as a 2006-2008 classroom educator participating in the two-year, National Science Foundation funded Tsunami Shelter Challenge STEM program; by LEGO Education to represent the State of Oregon as the 2006-2007 Oregon LEGO NXT Robotics Pilot Program Classroom Educator; and by Vernier Software and Technology for support of a classroom LEGO/Vernier collaboration STEM research project related to environmental studies.

As a life-long learner, Mark actively promotes and supports the integration of elementary/middle school STEM. He has attended TechStart's SuperQuest program each of the past five years and most recently assisted with the instruction of the LEGO robotics portion of the 2009 Western Oregon University SuperQuest program. He has coached five 1st place First LEGO League (FLL) teams, three of which were all girls' teams, and continues to recruit and mentor first year FLL coaches. During each of the last five years, he has actively participated in the Annenberg Media Foundation Journey North International Tulip Study, from which he developed and shared a number of STEM related elementary and middle school curricula that are now available and in use by fellow Journey North STEM educators world-wide.