

News Release

Springhurst Math Specialist Josh Rosen Receives Prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. January 9, 2014— Springhurst Math Specialist Josh Rosen had a great start to the New Year. In an official White House press release issued December 20th, President Barack Obama named 102 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Josh Rosen was deservedly among the chosen few. The 2012 awardees represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Department of Defense Education Activity Schools. Mr. Rosen and the other educators will receive their awards at an upcoming Washington, DC event.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates between teachers of kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. The 2012 awardees are K-6 teachers.

Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited to Washington, DC for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and the Administration, professional development and a White House tour.

“These teachers are inspiring today’s young students to become the next generation of American scientists, mathematicians, and innovators,” President Obama said. “Through their passion and dedication, and by sharing their excitement about science, technology, engineering, and math, they are helping us build a promising future for all our children.”

According to the White House press release, “Excellent math and science teachers, exemplified by these awardees, are critical to getting more students engaged in the increasingly important science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. That’s why President Obama has committed to strengthening STEM education and has called for preparing 100,000 excellent science and mathematics teachers over the next decade—a goal that inspired the creation of “100kin10,” a coalition of leading corporations, philanthropies, universities, service organizations, and others working to train and retain STEM teachers across the Nation. The President has also proposed to further strengthen the STEM teaching profession by launching a new STEM Master Teacher Corps, leveraging the expertise of some of our nation’s best and brightest teachers in science and mathematics to elevate the teaching of these subjects nationwide.”

“This is an incredible and well-deserved honor for Mr. Rosen and we are so proud of him,” said Springhurst Principal Julia Drake. Principal Drake was the one who nominated Mr. Rosen for the award back in February 2012. In between then and last month’s announcement, Mr. Rosen was required to submit a video of a lesson, three letters of recommendation and approximately 15 pages of narrative. Each application was evaluated using the following five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching:

- Mastery of mathematics or science content appropriate for the grade level taught.
- Use of instructional methods and strategies that are appropriate for students in the class and that support student learning.
- Effective use of student assessments to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning.
- Reflective practice and life-long learning to improve teaching and student learning.
- Leadership in education outside the classroom.

“It is such an honor to be recognized, but mostly because this award reaffirms that the learning we are engaged in at Springhurst is valued” Mr. Rosen said. “Teachers are being acknowledged and that’s important.”

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) has been in existence for the past 30 years going back to President Reagan’s administration. This designation is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science (including computer science) teaching. Established by Congress in 1983, the PAEMST program authorizes the President to bestow up to 108 awards each year. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

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