

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TECHSTART EDUCATION FOUNDATION NAMES
2009 OREGON TECHNOLOGY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Mark A. Gullickson of Central Elementary School in Albany Receives Annual Honor

Portland, Oregon, September 26, 2009 – TechStart Education Foundation has named its sixth annual Oregon Technology Educator of the Year. This year’s recipient, Mark A. Gullickson, was honored at the organization’s annual awards and fundraising dinner. Gullickson, a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Central Elementary School in the Greater Albany School District, is the first educator selected for the award for his work with students in the elementary grades. He was selected from ten candidates statewide who were all nominated for their efforts in the classroom as well as for support of extra-curricular activities that engage students in computer science and engineering.

Gullickson 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 6 years.

“In a year when we received more nominations than ever before that resulted in a diverse range of qualified candidates, Mark stood out among his peers for the impact he is having on students at such a young age,” said Chris Brooks, TechStart Education Foundation board chair. “We know there are many students in schools across the state who are interested in technology, and we honor teachers like Mark who give them the opportunity to explore and learn not just about the science but to gain the critical thinking and team building skills that come from the experiences he and others are creating.”

TechStart highlights the work and contributions each year of one Oregon K-12 teacher through the Technology Educator of the Year award. In addition to honor, prestige, and recognition, the Oregon Technology Educator of the Year Award comes with a \$1,000 donation to the awardees' classroom. The award honors a teacher who is an effective, engaging instructor that inspires passion and commitment from her or his students while advancing their critical thinking ability, skills, and knowledge in challenging, meaningful ways; an advocate for the study of information technology, making technology accessible to all students and building an inclusive culture; and, a role model for colleagues, who is committed to ongoing personal and peer professional development and establishes, evolves and communicates best practices and pedagogy.

The other nominees included: Jared Agard, Insight School of Oregon; Randle Brown, Bethany Charter School; Roger Collier, Oregon City Schools; Bill Diss, Benson Polytechnical School; Steve Fulton, Tigard High School; Jason Galbraith, Sunset High School; Bart Millar, Lincoln High School; Greg Smith, West Salem High School; and Dale Yocum, Catlin Gable.

About TechStart Education Foundation

The TechStart Education Foundation (www.techstart.org) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that was founded in 2003 by the Software Association of Oregon (<http://www.sao.org>). TechStart strives to nurture a passion for all of technology among Oregon's K-12 students by promoting and supporting wider access to technology education to transform how students learn, to sharpen their thinking and to influence their success beyond graduation. For more information about TechStart, contact Natasha MacDonald, Executive Director, at 503-228-5429.

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