

T.F. South's Jake Gourley was one of 10 winners in the Chicago area

D.215 honors 'Golden Apple' teacher

By Gregory Tejeda - Times Correspondent | Posted: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:05 am

Editor's Note: This article has been corrected from a previous version.

CALUMET CITY | The District 215 Board of Education recently honored one of its teachers for being named one of 10 educators who will receive the Golden Apple Foundation's top honor for educational excellence.

The School Board last week presented a certificate to Jake Gourley, who teaches history at Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, to acknowledge his selection earlier this month as a recipient of the Golden Apple Award.

The foundation has honored teachers since 1986, providing them with a \$3,000 prize and membership in their Academy of Educators -- which entitles them to one tuition-free semester at Northwestern University in Evanston to study an academic project of their own choice.

While in college, Gourley was also a recipient of the Golden Apple Scholar award, and is only the second person to receive both distinctions.

Gourley received his certificate, along with praise from T.F. South Principal Dean Auriemma -- who was a Golden Apple scholar in 2001 while teaching at Homewood-Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor.

"What is significant is that he was chosen from among all teachers throughout the Chicago area," Auriemma said. "It is a nice, small list of educators who qualify."

Specifically, Gourley was chosen from among 562 teachers nominated by students and other community members. Those teachers were weeded down to 30 finalists, from whom the 10 scholars were selected.

"We're proud of Jake and what he brings to our community," Auriemma said.