



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Waterford School District Elementary Teacher John Phillips to Receive Award from President Obama**

**July 16, 2009, Waterford, Mich.** – President Obama has named Adams Elementary School Teacher John Phillips a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award of Excellence. The Presidential Award of Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring recognizes the crucial role that mentoring plays in the academic and personal development of students studying math, science or engineering. This award is given annually to the best pre-college level science and math teachers from across the country.

Phillips will be honored in the fall at the White house and will receive \$10,000 to advance his mentoring efforts. In addition, he will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a White House awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders. Phillips is among 100 educators in the country, one of two in Michigan, and the only recipient in Oakland County to receive this award.

Prior to earning this distinction, Phillips received the Walter P. Chrysler Closing the Technology Gap in Education Award, sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, along with partner The New Detroit Science Center. Phillips was chosen as one of the top elementary educators in the State of Michigan and received \$15,000 to advance science, math, engineering and technology education in the school.

Phillips began teaching in the Waterford School District, Adams Elementary School, in 2001. He earned his undergraduate degree from Oakland University and his master's degree from Mary Grove College.

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