



**National Association for
Sport and Physical Education**

*an association of the American Alliance for Health,
Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*

NASPE Sets the Standard

1900 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Phone: 703-476-3410

Fax: 703-476-8316

Email: naspe@aahperd.org

PRESS RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Paula Keyes Kun (703) 476-3461; pkun@aahperd.org

**AURORA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
HONORED AS CENTRAL DISTRICT
HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

RESTON, VA, March 2, 2010 – Aurora resident Clayton Ellis will be honored as the Central District High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) at its national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 16 - 20. The Central District represents a nine-state area from Colorado to Minnesota. The Central District Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award is given in recognition of outstanding teaching performance at the high school level and the ability to motivate today's youth to participate in a lifetime of physical activity.

At the convention Ellis, a physical education teacher, department chair and swimming coach for over nine years at Aurora High School, will vie with three other district winners for the "National Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award." This award is sponsored by NASPE and School Specialty PE, formerly Sportime.

The National Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award recipient will be announced on Friday, March 19, at the NASPE Hall of Fame Banquet, which is sponsored by Playworld Systems®, the leader in outdoor commercial playground equipment and the creator of ENERGI™ Total Body Fitness System. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Shannon Miller will be inducted that evening into the NASPE Hall of Fame.

According to the award-winning physical educator, "My goal is to provide students with the foundations of fitness that they will need to establish positive lifetime habits that will foster success and health throughout their lives. As a lifelong learner, I also believe in motivating others to learn and be the best they can be."

Lynn Fair, principal of Aurora Central High School, said, "During my long career in education, no one that I know has been the voice for physical education that Clayton is and has been. Contributing his time and energy for the success of students, he has been instrumental in

leading the change in our district curriculum to be an innovative learning experience in health and fitness.”

Fitness principles and skill related fitness components are integrated into his classes. His wide range of activities includes archery, bicycling, bocce ball, cup stacking, golf, hiking, martial arts, yoga, Pilates, resistance training, tae kwon do, and swimming. Ellis uses a variety of assessments including teacher observation, peer observation, written assessments, verbal assessments, video and digital camera pictures, and Palm Pilot rubrics to check his students' understandings of each unit.

During the past three years Ellis has led district and state professional development opportunities. He participates on the school's Instructional Leadership Team for school improvement, serves on the District Coordinated School Health and Wellness Committee, works with the District Grants Office and oversees the Outdoor Club. A strong advocate for physical education, Ellis went to Capitol Hill in Washington, DC twice this past year to lobby for passage of the Fit Kids Act and increase funding for the Carol M. White P.E.P. grants.

Among his many professional affiliations are the National Association for Sport and Physical Education/American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NASPE/AAHPERD), the Colorado Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (COAHPERD), American Football Coaches Association, Texas High School Coaches Association and the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. Ellis received his Bachelors of Science degree in health/physical education/recreation from Adams State College and his Masters Degree in Education Administration from University of Phoenix.

NASPE

The preeminent national authority on physical education and a recognized leader in sport and physical activity, the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) is a non-profit professional membership association that sets the standard for practice in physical education and sport. NASPE's 15,000 members include: K-12 physical education teachers, coaches, athletic directors, athletic trainers, sport management professionals, researchers, and college/university faculty who prepare physical activity professionals. NASPE seeks to enhance knowledge, improve professional practice, and increase support for high-quality physical education, sport and physical activity programs. It is the largest of the five national associations that make up the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (AAHPERD). For more information, visit www.naspeinfo.org.