



Press Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Michigan Council of Teachers of English announces the 2018 recipient of the Secondary English Teacher of the Year Award.

The Michigan Council of Teachers of English has named **Jessyca Mathews**, teacher at Carman-Ainsworth High School in Flint, as the **2018 Secondary English Teacher of the Year**.

Mathews, a native of Flint and graduate of Carman-Ainsworth, earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint in English, with a minor in history. She also earned a Specialization in Secondary Education at the University of Michigan-Flint, along with a Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. In addition to her 18-year teaching career at Carman-Ainsworth, Mathews is a member of the Red Cedar Writing Project at Michigan State University and a published author of poetry and memoir.

When she learned she was this year's recipient, Mathews said, "I am most honored in knowing that I am the first African-American to receive this award. It is my hope that with this honor we can show our students of color that education has value, that we celebrate diversity, and that they too have the opportunity to shine and continue progress for others who have skin color the same as theirs."

The MCTE's Secondary English Teacher of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding high school English educator. To be considered for the award, the ideal nominee is a role model and an inspiration to the education community, demonstrates a strong ability to foster excellence in ELA education, and connects learning to student interests and to their lives beyond the classroom. In addition, recipients of this award are recognized for utilizing a variety of innovative teaching methodologies and demonstrating a strong commitment to creating a caring and respectful climate conducive to effective teaching and learning.

Mathews will be recognized at the annual Fall Conference of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English on Friday, October 19, 2018, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. We encourage local districts to support and recognize their award-winning teachers at home. This state-wide accolade is often celebrated by local administrators and school boards.

Founded in 1924, the Michigan Council of Teachers of English (MCTE) is the state affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English, an organization for K-16 English language arts teachers. MCTE provides professional development for English language arts teachers and English education professors throughout Michigan. The goals of the organization are to disseminate current English education scholarship and assist English language arts teachers as they make decisions about pedagogical practices, student populations, and teaching philosophies. Learn more about the MCTE at <https://mymcte.org>.