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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Melanie Hammond, Master Teacher, Recognized by the Board of Education**



Members of NEA-Salina selected Melanie Hammond, science teacher at South High School, as the USD 305 Master Teacher. Melanie's nomination to the Emporia State University Kansas Master Teacher program will occur in the 2021-2022 cycle, due to the suspension of their program because of COVID-19.

Melanie earned her bachelor's and two master's degrees from Kansas State University. She has taught science for 20 years at South High School while becoming certified as an English Language Learner, an assistant girl's swim coach, sponsor of SADD, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Student Council. She is a mentor teacher and a building representative for NEA-Salina.

Melanie enjoys working with at-risk students and makes sure each student feels loved and cared for. Her instruction incorporates real life examples and experiences that they can apply later in life. Melanie explains, "I try to build students' problem-solving, critical thinking and argumentation skills so that they can be successful no matter what career path they choose."

Melanie is a believer that learning never stops. This inspired her to pilot Standards Referenced Grading, otherwise known as measuring students' mastery on well-defined objectives, at South High. Along with colleagues, she developed the multiple assessments for each standard, proficiency scales to measure students' mastery and communications to build understanding of how classrooms would be different.

Her involvement extends into the Salina community. Melanie sings with the worship team and choir at her church and volunteers for the Salina Area United Way activities such as the Back to School Fair and backpack drive.

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