



For Immediate Release

Urbandale High School Teacher Awarded Educator of Distinction Per Student Nomination

UHS Science Teacher, Gloria Peters, receives the highly-regarded Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction award by The National Society of High School Scholars as a result of Taylor Porter's nomination

URBANDALE, Iowa – December 9, 2013 – Gloria Peters, Urbandale High School science teacher, was recently selected by [The National Society of High School Scholars \(NSHSS\)](#) as a [Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction](#). Taylor Porter, junior at UHS, nominated Peters for her enthusiasm for student learning, dedication to student achievement and compassion for helping students achieve success. NSHSS student members are given the opportunity to nominate an educator who has made the most significant contribution to their academic career. A nominee must be an outstanding role model and uphold the highest principles for excellence in education.

“Mrs. Peters was my favorite teacher last year,” said Porter. “She makes you understand what you are supposed to learn; she does that by presenting it in a lot of ways until you understand. Her class was a lot of work but it was worth it because you end up learning. You can tell that she cares a lot about her students.”



Taylor Porter, UHS student and Gloria Peters, UHS science teacher

“I am extremely honored that Taylor views me in such an influential light,” said Peters. “Students, such as Taylor, inspire me daily to do my best and help in any way I can. I am fortunate to be in a community that has students that value and work hard to internalize their education. I enjoy what I do and am so blessed to be in a profession I love.”

Peters’ nomination and subsequent selection as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction aligns with the Urbandale Community School District’s quest for transforming education through [Quality/Continual Improvement \(Q/CI\)](#). Q/CI is about the continual improvement of all learners in the system and

redesigning learning environments to increase engagement, encourage collaboration and improve achievement.

As numerous education studies indicate a consistent and steady decline in student enthusiasm and enjoyment, beginning after Kindergarten, the UCSD is moving away from old paradigms that have outgrown their effectiveness and moving toward those that create joy in learning, teaching and leading. The Urbandale approach is about making the significant shift from teacher-centered classrooms to student-centered classrooms, from due dates and grades to target dates and continual learning, and from extrinsic motivators to intrinsic motivators; all with the intention of increasing student achievement and success. Urbandale congratulates Peters on being nominated by a student and selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction; a meaningful tribute and a well-deserved honor.

About The National Society of High School Scholars

Formed in 2002 by James W. Lewis and Claes Nobel, senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes, The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and encourages members of the organization to apply their unique talents, vision and potential for the betterment of themselves and the world. Currently, there are more than 900,000 Society members in 160 countries. NSHSS provides scholarship opportunities for deserving young people and offers lifetime membership to support the transition from high school to college and college to career. For more information about NSHSS, visit: www.nshss.org

NSHSS International Headquarters
1936 North Druid Hills Road
Atlanta, GA 30319

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 50 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: www.urbandaleschools.com

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