

## CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

***For Immediate Release***

***Contact David Roddy, (702) 799-5304***

***Feb. 13, 2015***

### **Clark County School District teacher wins national Rising Star award**

**LAS VEGAS** – The walls of Matthew LaPorte’s classroom at the Southwest Career and Technical Academy (SWCTA) are filled with awards the journalism program has earned for its online news site and yearbooks. There have been so many awards since LaPorte started at the school when it opened in 2009 that a white board had to be removed from a wall in order to make room for the awards and honors.

LaPorte will need to find a little more room on the wall as he was recently notified that he had been selected as one of only 11 Rising Star journalism instructors in the entire nation by the Journalism Education Association (JEA). He will receive his award at the national convention in Denver in April.

Low-key and modest, LaPorte gives all the credit to his students.

“The students here are great,” said LaPorte. “They are motivated and do great work; I just provide them with a little guidance and support and continue to remind them about the importance of teamwork, communication and collaboration.”

The guidance and support proved to be important to the students as they are the ones who nominated LaPorte for the award. LaPorte also has the support of the school’s administration as Principal Donna Levy praised his work with the students.

“Matt is an amazingly talented teacher,” said Levy. “Year-after-year his journalism and yearbook classes continue to win competitions, so this very prestigious award is no shock. It is a well-deserved honor for a fantastic teacher.”

While LaPorte prefers to put his students in the spotlight for recognition rather than himself, one of the interesting aspects of his high-achieving students is that even with their high quality of work, most of them are also involved in several other clubs, while being enrolled in one or two advanced placement courses.

“I appreciate each and every moment my students give to their respective publications, because I know that they are committed to more than just the journalism program. The fact that the yearbook and newspaper are a priority for them speaks volumes of their dedication,” said LaPorte.

For more information about the Clark County School District, visit [ccsd.net](http://ccsd.net).

# # #