



September 12 , 2011

SWIBA membership and building administrators,

Greetings! Attached, you will find a copy of the Lee Nelson Young Band Director Award nomination form. We would like you to consider nominating colleagues of yours who are in their 3rd through 10th year of teaching. Nominations for this award will close on December 12, at the SWIBA HS Honor Band auditions. **Postmark for all materials is December 24, 2011.** Award recipients will be notified by January 1, 2012 and the awards presentation will take place at the SWIBA HS Honor Band Concert in January. To read more about this award, approved by the SWIBA membership last year, please read the follow description below, and thank you for observing our postmark deadline. Former award winners are:

- David Clark – Underwood High School/Underwood Middle School – 2009
- Jarrod O’Doniel – Atlantic High School, Shannon Almelen, Clarinda High School - 2010

The Lee Nelson Young Band Director Award:

The Lee Nelson Young Band Director Award was established in 2009 by the SWIBA Board Members and General Membership to recognize the accomplishments of our friend and mentor, Lee Nelson. The award was named for Lee Nelson, who retired after a long and distinguished career that included 35 years at Harlan Community Schools. Lee Nelson has been a champion of young teachers in our district, state, and throughout the midwest. He has been a mentor to hundreds of young teachers, and has made presentations about mentoring at several conventions, including the 2008 Midwest Convention. While Lee’s legacy to generations under him is great, we believe he has truly distinguished himself as an outstanding example of what mentorship can be. Through visitation, counseling, clinics, presentations, and other selfless tasks, Lee’s work needs to be recognized through this honor for young teachers.

Young teachers in SWIBA are doing outstanding things in their programs. We believe that this award will be an incentive for young teachers to excel in their field, and would allow Lee’s legacy to continue to improve the music education that students in Southwest Iowa receive.

Thank you for considering nominating a colleague or employee for this award. With this award, we hope to continue providing quality education to students in Southwest Iowa through young educator recognition.

In the name of music and kids,

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