



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2016
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Brian J. Whiston, Chairman 
SUBJECT: Presentation of the Michigan 2015-2016 Milken Award Winner

Lowell and Michael Milken and members of the Milken families started the National Educator Award program in the early 1980s. They saw the importance of recognizing great educators and developed a program that provides public recognition and financial rewards to outstanding educators. The first awards were presented to 12 California educators in 1987. Each educator in the program is given a \$25,000 unrestricted financial award and the opportunity to participate in on-going professional development and leadership activities. Since 1987, the program has expanded, awarded over \$67 million to nearly 2,700 outstanding teachers, principals, and education specialists, and is now the largest teacher recognition program in the country.

In the fall of 2015, the Milken Family Foundation recognized Kevin Tobe, a math teacher at Haslett High School, as Michigan's 2015-2016 Milken Educator. He was recognized in a school-wide assembly attended by Superintendent Whiston. Mr. Tobe will be presented to the board and then speak to his experience as a Milken Educator.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 517-373-3324