



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Liza Drever Named Owatonna Teacher of the Year 2026**

*Owatonna, MN* - Liza Drever, math teacher at Owatonna High School, was named Owatonna Teacher of the Year at the Owatonna Education Association banquet on May 6.

Drever was one of four finalists, which also included William Blechschmidt, Amanda Flohrs and Liz Charlton.

Drever grew up in DeSmet, South Dakota. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Southwest Minnesota State University and later completed a master's degree in educational leadership through the university. In addition, she took graduate level math courses through Minnesota State University Moorhead to obtain certification to teach College Now courses.

Liza began her teaching career at Lakeview Public Schools, where she taught seventh grade math during the 2001-2002 school year. From 2002-2018, she taught at Faribault High School. She began teaching at Owatonna High School during the 2018-2019 school year. She will teach Intermediate Algebra, Geometry, College Algebra, and AP Precalculus next school year.

According to Drever, "My favorite part of teaching is the relationships with colleagues and students. My colleagues remind me that not every day has to be your best, but you should always give your best, and give yourself grace. They show me that being silly builds connection, that it is brave to try new strategies in the classroom, and that support is always close by. My students teach me about resilience, perspective, and the power of embracing differences. Those daily interactions are what makes the teaching profession meaningful.

"It is an honor to receive this recognition. In teaching, we learn and grow from our interactions with each other. I believe that every teacher in Owatonna deserves to be recognized and celebrated for their hard work and dedication to students."

Owatonna Education Association (OEA) has over 380 members who nominate and vote annually for the Teacher of the Year.

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