Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Woodstock North High School teacher honored by Illinois State University

To the surprise of no one at Woodstock North High School, teacher Destiny Dungey was recently recognized as a rising star by her alma mater.

Dungey, who teaches English and AVID Classes, was selected for the Illinois State University 2026 Department of English Rising Alumni Award. The 2022 alumna was honored at October events along with other notable alumni at the ISU campus.

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 also recognized the young teacher's talents in 2023 and presented her with a Difference Maker Award as one of North's outstanding educators.

"Destiny is a wonderful teacher here at Woodstock North in both AVID and English classes. She is innovative, challenges students to think critically, and is incredibly supportive of her students and colleagues," WNHS Principal Tyler Carlson said.

After student teaching at Larkin High School, Dungey took her first full-time teaching role at Woodstock North. "When I first got hired, I literally cried. I was so excited"

Students and educators fortunate enough to know Dungey will attest that her excitement has not worn off. In fact, Dungey said the ISU recognition has further ignited her passion.

"When I got this award, I was like, 'I need to step it up. I need to keep doing more!' I'm super motivated," Dungey said.

The award criteria included her efforts at Woodstock North and ISU, where she engaged in many endeavors, including hosting an online read-in for area African-American students, conducting research on teaching in rural communities, among other efforts.

In addition to the D200 award, while at Woodstock North, Dungey wrote a column for the ISU English journal about being an early high school educator, and she has been working on forming a Thunder Black student union.

Jacqueline Janke, Dungey's teaching mentor at Woodstock North, said Dungey's recognition was well deserved.

"Ms. Dungey is a go-getter who is simultaneously confident in her ability as a teacher and completely willing to learn from others. Over her time at WNHS, doing what's best for kids has always been her North Star, and we are so proud of all she has accomplished," Janke said.

Dungey remains excited and optimistic about her future at Woodstock North.

"It's my fifth year; I finally got my feet under me — barely, a little bit. Getting nominated and acknowledged like this, it's almost like, wow, there's so much more I can do.

I've got a great group of kids this year who are super passionate about things like starting a Black student union. And you know what, I'm passionate about that, too. Let's get started," she said.