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News Release

Fossil Ridge High School Social Studies Teacher Mark Barry Is Milken Family Foundation Honoree

In a surprise announcement in front of an all-school assembly, Fossil Ridge High School social studies teacher Mark Barry was presented this morning with a \$25,000 check from the Milken Family Foundation in recognition of his exceptional work as a model teacher for the state and nation.

The award was presented in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education. Colorado Board of Education Chairman Bob Schaffer, Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones and Milken Educator Awards Senior Vice President Jane Foley were on hand in Fort Collins for the announcement and celebration of Barry's talent and dedication.

"Mark Barry is an excellent choice as a model of educator professionalism," said board chair Schaffer. "His passion for teaching and active engagement in the school community—and beyond—is palpable."

Added Commissioner Jones: "Mark Barry's students are extremely fortunate to learn in his classroom. His high level of enthusiasm and commitment to his students no doubt inspires everyone around him. Congratulations to an outstanding educator."

Barry has taught at Poudre School District's Fossil Ridge High School since 2005. Recently he also took on the role as adjunct professor at

Colorado State University. Previously, Barry taught in Maine, Alaska and on the Solomon Islands.

In her letter of recommendation, Fossil Ridge High School principal Dierdre Cook wrote: "If every student in American had a Mark Barry as their teacher—the world would be a kinder, more peaceful place. In the classroom, Mark Barry's enthusiasm, intelligence, positive attitude and contagious spirit make him an incredible teacher for students and mentor for staff."

The event was part of the Milken Family Foundation's 23rd Annual National Notifications tour, honoring more than 50 outstanding educators as 2009 Milken Educator Award recipients with collective cash prizes totaling more than \$1.2 million.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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