

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Dorado Union High School District Announces District Teacher of the Year



The El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD) honored Mr. Ryan Madsen at the May 11, 2021 Board Meeting as Alternative Education's Teacher of the Year as well as the District's Teacher of the Year.

Leslie Redkey, Director of Educational Options & Innovations, commented "Not everyone knows exactly how Virtual Academy operates, but I think describing Ryan Madsen's role at our school gives you a good idea. We are a small school, which means we have one of each core subject teacher. In addition to teaching science, Ryan is our Lead Teacher, helping teachers with our Learning Management System, Canvas, leading collaborative discussions and assisting with our attendance trackers each month - no small task, I assure you. Ryan gracefully executes all of these things while also teaching his classes. In the fall, Ryan teaches Earth and Space Science, Biology, and Leadership classes. In the spring, Ryan teaches Advanced Chemistry, Physics, ICT, Health and Leadership. You would never once know this is all on his plate. He manages to do all this knowing the importance and care needed to create highly engaging lessons for students and getting even the most reluctant learners to do well - even in Advanced Chemistry! Beyond all of this, Ryan's core values are rooted in the importance of building leaders and building

connections between staff and students and their school. There is rarely a conversation with a parent or student without the mention of how much Mr. Madsen means to them and his positive impacts on the student's life. Students and parents have shared how he has not only helped them truly understand science, but taking it one-step further, he has helped them invest in their own education and understand the importance of education. Watching Ryan naturally interact with and learn about students on a daily basis, you can see that this is second nature for him and it is a beautiful thing to witness. The most important part of education for him is building those connections. Our leadership program has flourished under Ryan's passion for building a program based on not one leader, but an entire community of leaders. Beyond organizing activities, students read articles and books on Leadership and learn about different leadership styles, allowing each student to find that ability to lead within himself or herself. I am beyond grateful to be able to work with you, Ryan. Your commitment to our school community and our students is truly amazing to watch. Thank you!"