



Justin Eick Awarded Nobel Educator Distinction

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The Outlook

Justin Eick, La Cañada High School theatre teacher, was recently named Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars. (NSHSS)

Eick was nominated by student Bianca Saleebyan for his outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence. This is the first time this award has been presented to an LCHS teacher.

The award is named after Claes Nobel, a member of the family who established the Nobel prizes. Claes Nobel was founder of the NSHSS.

According to NSHSS President James Lewis, the Claes Nobel award recognizes teacher role models who have made a lasting difference in their classroom by encouraging students to strive for excellence. "Dedicated educators, who exhibit a commitment to excellence, deserve our highest praise and appreciation," said Lewis.

"I was dumbfounded, very honored and extremely grateful," said Justin Eick. "I had no idea I was even nominated. "I love my job and



Theatre teacher Justin Eick is congratulated by student Bianca Saleebyan, who nominated him for the award.

simply do everything I can for each student to reach their potential. They are the talented and amazing ones. My position at LCHS is so wonderful. It is a dream position. Sometimes I feel I am going to wake up and the dream will be over."

Senior Bianca Saleebyan, a theatre student, said she received an email from the society encouraging students to submit nominations.

"There was no question in my mind who I was going to nominate," said Saleebyan. "I have been in his classes for three years. He is the best teacher, mentor and role model I have ever had. He teaches more than theatre. He ties each production to history, literature and how things fit in today's world. Most of all, he teaches us humility and the spirit of generosity."

Saleebyan had not told Eick that she nominated him, but coincidentally was present when he received and opened the letter and award.

Eick paid tribute to the talent and dedication of his students, saying they successfully embrace complex roles and they do eight productions a year, whereas other high school do two.

"The students' character strength and repeated success is a testimony to their dedication, skills and unwavering parental support and they are the ones who should be honored," said Eick.

This is Eick's third year of teaching at LCHS. Previously, he taught at Los Angeles County High School of the Arts.