



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ROWAN UNIVERSITY'S RICHARD HEGGAN NAMED 2015 NATIONAL STUDENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Richard (Rick) Heggan, 2015 graduate and currently teaching sixth and eighth grade science at Neeta School in Medford Lakes, New Jersey, is the 2015 recipient of the Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)/Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) National Student Teacher of the Year Award. Heggan is a 2014 Kappa Delta Pi initiate of the Eta Psi Chapter at Rowan University.

“With a love for science and a passion for student learning, I found teaching to be the perfect profession,” Heggan wrote. Heggan’s student teacher supervisor at Rowan University, Carol Fiorese, shared that he is what she would call a “natural” in the classroom. “He, consistently, is able to get positive results from his students and he creates motivational learning experiences. He demonstrates a true passion for teaching.”

To earn the award, an applicant must be an enrolled undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student with a minimum 3.0 GPA and be student teaching/interning full time in a curricular level for which he or she is eligible for certification. The applicant must also submit a lesson plan and a 30-minute video, including an introduction, the lesson plan implemented in a classroom setting, and a reflection of the outcome.

Heggan was selected from a competitive applicant pool. The selection committee praised his student engagement, energy, and composure and said his project epitomized what they are looking for in an exceptional student teacher.

“Rick is not only competent, but extremely knowledgeable and always able to take advantage of teaching moments. Therefore, he has the ability to be spontaneous in his instruction,” said Fiorese. Reflecting on his own personal philosophy of education in the form of a metaphor, Heggan writes, “Learning is a journey and an enthusiastic teacher can make it one to remember. The word of an admired teacher carries more weight than anyone can image.”

KDP and ATE congratulate Rick and wish him well as he begins his first school year as a practicing educator. The organizations also seek to express their gratitude for Rick’s unwavering commitment to being the enthusiastic teacher who makes a difference in the lives of his students.

Since the award’s establishment in 1994, KDP and ATE have named a very select few from around the United States as National Student Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes one student teacher/intern annually who has demonstrated the ability to plan and develop classroom management skills and instructional strategies that support all students; establish interpersonal relationships with students, parents, faculty, and staff; and reflect powerfully on their student teaching experience. Award winners are acknowledged with a \$1,500 scholarship award.

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### ***About Kappa Delta Pi***

*Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.*