

Press Clippings - 2/21/2025

- Chicago Tribune/The Courier News - South Elgin High School teacher announced as one of 30 finalists for 2025 Golden Apple Award

By: Mike Danahey

Date: February 20, 2025



Matthew Erbach, who teaches civil engineering, architecture and precision manufacturing classes at South Elgin High School, is one of 30 finalists for a 2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A South Elgin High School teacher is among 30 finalists for a 2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, and nine other U-46 educators are among more than 500 being honored by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Matthew Erbach teaches civil engineering, architecture and precision manufacturing courses at South Elgin, according to a news release from the nonprofit Golden Apple Foundation.

A teacher for nearly 20 years, Erbach was the second-place winner in 2018 and one of 54 finalists in 2017 in the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence, the release said. He also was an Illinois State Board of Education Award of Meritorious Service honoree in 2024.

Erbach has a bachelor's degree in teaching from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in workforce development from Southern Illinois University, according to the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools website.

In the Golden Apple news release, one of Erbach's colleagues said his passion and expertise, in addition to the positive impact and support he extends to students, serves as a "benchmark for quality, surpassing many other manufacturing programs in the state."

Golden Apple Award winners will be announced in spring. Northwestern University provides a free spring sabbatical to award recipients and each receives a \$5,000 cash award.

The finalists were culled from more than 470 nominations, according to a foundation news release.

Award recipients also become Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, a group of educators who help prepare the next generation of teachers in Golden Apple Scholars and Accelerators programs, which are initiatives dedicated to addressing the teacher shortage in Illinois.

“Great teachers change lives. These finalists exemplify the dedication and passion that define exceptional teaching,” Alan Mather, president of Golden Apple, said in the release.

“Their commitment to fostering student growth and inspiring a love for learning enriches not only their classrooms but also the entire educational community. We are honored to recognize their invaluable contributions.”

In the awards announced by the state board of education, nine Those Who Excel honorees are employed by Elgin-based District U-46. They are:

- Kimberly Blazek — second-grade teacher at Centennial Elementary School, Award of Excellence;
- Patricia Briones — project access coordinator, Award of Special Recognition;
- Jill Gerovac — math teacher at Eastview Middle School, Award of Excellence;
- Angela Ginnan — principal at Eastview Middle School, Award of Meritorious Service;
- Paul Kowalyszyn — English teacher and instructional coach at Streamwood High School, Award of Meritorious Service;
- Lela Majstorovic — deputy superintendent of instruction, Award of Meritorious Service;
- Rafael Martinez-Ortiz — associate principal at Dream Academy, Award of Special Recognition;
- Jose Mora — world languages teacher at South Elgin High School (Award of Special Recognition);
- Angela Rojas — early childhood teacher at Independence Center for Early Learning, Award of Special Recognition.

According to the ISBE website, the Award of Excellence is the most prestigious of the honors, followed by the Award of Meritorious Service and the Award of Special Recognition.

For more information on the awards, go to www.goldenapple.org/golden-apple-awards-finalists-2025 and www.isbe.net/Pages/twe-toy-awards-process.aspx.

- Kane County Connects - South Elgin Educator Among Golden Apple Award Finalists

Date: February 20, 2025



Matthew Erbach, a teacher at South Elgin High School, is among the 2025 finalists for the Golden Apple Award, which honors excellence in teaching. He is one of ten suburban educators selected from more than 470 nominations. [Read more](#)

- Daily Herald - High school scores for Feb. 20

Date: February 20, 2025



Along with teammates including Annie Wolff, left, Grayslake Central's Peyton, middle, and Madison Hofmann celebrate the Rams' victory over Antioch during the Class 3A girls basketball regional final on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025 in Grayslake.

Upcoming

Friday, Feb 21

Boys basketball

Benet at DePaul Prep, 7 p.m.

Cary-Grove at Burlington Central, 7 p.m.

Christian Liberty vs. Maranatha, 1:30 p.m.

Crystal Lake South at Hampshire, 7 p.m.

Dundee-Crown at Prairie Ridge, 7 p.m.

Elk Grove at Glenbard South, 7 p.m.

Elgin at Plainfield South, 6 p.m.

Glenbard West at St. Charles East, 7 p.m.

Harvard at Round Lake, 7 p.m.

LaSalle-Peru at Kaneland, 7 p.m.

McHenry at Huntley, 7 p.m.

Metea Valley at Prospect, 7:30 p.m.

Palatine at Vernon Hills, 6 p.m.

Plano at Aurora Christian, 7:30 p.m.

St. Edward at Schaumburg Christian, 7 p.m.

Waubonsie Valley at DeKalb, 7 p.m.

Woodstock North at Antioch, 7 p.m.

Boys track & field

Bartlett, Naperville Central, Wheaton North at Wheaton Warrenville South, 5 p.m.

Carmel, Grayslake North, Round Lake, Vernon Hills at Grayslake Central Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Downers Grove North at Proviso West, 5 p.m.

Fremd, Hersey, Loyola Academy, Mundelein at Glenbrook South Quad, 4:30 p.m.

Hinsdale Central Red Devil Quad, 5:30 p.m.

Girls track & field

Barrington, Benet, Hinsdale Central, Naperville Central, Waubonsie Valley at York Indoor Invite, 5 p.m.

Carmel, Grayslake North, Round Lake, Vernon Hills at Grayslake Central Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

South Elgin at Maine South Hawk Invite, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb 22

Boys basketball

Christian Liberty vs. TBD

South Elgin at DeKalb, 4 p.m.

Boys track & field

Barrington, Lake Zurich, Maine East, Cary-Grove, Palatine, Vernon Hills, Kaneland, Lakes at Grayslake Central Invitational, 9 a.m.

Glenbard South, Lake Park, Leyden, Warren at Proviso East Invitational, 9 a.m.

Benet, Waubonsie Valley at Plainfield South Invite, 9 a.m.

Elgin, Lake Park at Charles North Invite, 9 a.m.

Glenbard West at Batavia Open, 9 a.m.

Hampshire, Metea Valley, Schaumburg at Rockford Auburn Invite, 22 a.m.

Neuqua Valley, Willowbrook at Homewood Flossmoor Quad, 10 a.m.

York at Chicago Hope Academy, 10 a.m.

Girls track & field

Antioch, St. Viator, Crystal Lake South, Huntley, Libertyville, Maine East, Mundelein, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, Warren, Wauconda at Lakes Invitational, 10 a.m.

Argo, Glenbard West, Palatine at Downers Grove North, 9:30 a.m.

Bartlett, Metea Valley at Rich Township Invite, 9 a.m.

Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, Hersey, Larkin, Stevenson, West Aurora, Wheeling at Stevenson Invitational, 9 a.m.

Cary-Grove at Grayslake Central Invite, 9 a.m.

Conant, Hinsdale South, Kaneland at Willowbrook Invitational, 10 a.m.

Downers Grove South, Lake Park, Naperville North, Neuqua Valley at Wheaton Warrenville South, 9 a.m.

Geneva at Batavia Invite, 9 a.m.

Glenbard South Raider Quad, 9 a.m.

Hampshire, IC Catholic Prep, Lake Zurich, Prospect, St. Charles North, St. Charles East at Hononegah, 10 a.m.

Libertyville at Lakes Invitational, 10 a.m.

Mundelein at Buffalo Grove, 10 a.m.

Rosary at Clinton Early Bird, 8 a.m.

Monday, Feb 24

Boys basketball

IHSA regional quarterfinals

Class 4A Bolingbrook regional

No. 17 East Aurora at No. 16 Naperville Central, 6 p.m.

Class 4A Addison Trail regional

No. 17 West Chicago at No. 16 Willowbrook, 6 p.m.

Class 4A Geneva regional

No. 18 Elk Grove vs. No. 15 St. Charles North, 6 p.m.

Class 4A Highland Park regional

No. 17 Senn at No. 16 Leyden, 6 p.m.

Class 4A Larkin regional

No. 17 Streamwood at No. 13 Larkin, 6 p.m.

Class 4A Rolling Meadows regional

No. 18 Elgin at No. 16 South Elgin, TBA

Class 4A Libertyville regional

No. 9 Round Lake at No. 8 Zion-Benton, 6 p.m.

Class 4A Rockford East regional

No. 8 Hampshire at No. 7 Rockford Jefferson, TBA

Class 3A Grayslake North regional

No. 20 Roosevelt at No. 13 Wauconda, TBA

Class 3A Niles Notre Dame regional

No. 19 CICS at No. 14 Lakes, 6 p.m.

Class 3A Prairie Ridge regional

No. 9 Crystal Lake Central at No. 8 Prairie Ridge, 7 p.m.

Class 2A Mendota regional

No. 12 Aurora Central Catholic at No. 5 Mendota, 6 p.m.

Class 2A Joliet Catholic regional

No. 11 Lisle at No. 9 Westmont, 6 p.m.
Class 1A Indian Creek regional
No. 12 Leland at No. 5 Aurora Christian, 6 p.m.
Class 1A Harvest Christian regional
No. 8 St. Edward at No. 7 Schaumburg Christian, 7 p.m.
No. 13 Westminster Christian at No. 5 Lombard Prep, 6 p.m.

To read the full article, please click [here](#).

- Chicago Tribune - Basketball and local scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: Josh Krockey

Date: February 20, 2025



Kaneland's Marshawn Cocroft dribbles the ball up the court during a nonconference game against Hancock in Maple Park on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025. Kaneland has set a team record for wins in a season with 27.

High school and local college results and highlights from the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ag. Science 80, Schurz 61

Ag. Science (19-9): Chris Cole 31 points. Isaiah Hall 20 points. Landon Mathis 18 points.

DeKalb 65, Metea Valley 53

Fenger 58, Thornwood 54

Geneva 49, St. Charles North 32

Geneva (26-4, 14-0 DuKane): First unbeaten conference record since 1963.

Glenbard North 64, Batavia 36

Glenbard South 51, Larkin 49

Hinckley-Big Rock 79, DePue 52

Hinckley-Big Rock (23-8, 9-1 Little Ten): Martin Ledbetter 24 points, 15 rebounds, 6 assists.
Indian Creek 44, Serena 41
Indian Creek (19-10, 8-2 Little Ten): Everett Willis 12 points.
Kaneland 67, Oak Forest 31
Kaneland (27-1): Freddy Hassan 20 points. Marshawn Cocroft 19 points. Luke Reinert 10 points. School record for wins in a season.
Oak Forest (14-16): Matt Anderson 10 points.
Lake Forest 39, Lake Zurich 33
Lake Forest (20-9, 10-4 North Suburban): Hudson Scroggins 15 points. Dominic Mordini 12 points.
Lane 55, Thornton 41
Thornton (8-20): DeAndre Higgs 12 points, 7 rebounds.
Leo 71, Marshall 33
Leo (20-10): Dontae Jackson 21 points, 6 assists. Ethan Jackson 16 points. Stephen Barze Jr. 10 points, 12 rebounds.
Minooka 67, Shepard 46
Neuqua Valley 59, Naperville North 57
Newark 67, LaMoille 32
Newark (17-13, 9-1 Little Ten): Dylan Long 40 points, 5 rebounds; scored 1,000th career point.
Payton Willis 10 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals. Cody Kulbartz 15 rebounds.
Plano 71, Richmond-Burton 51
Plano (17-13, 9-5 Kishwaukee River): Vinny Cesario 18 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists. Taron McGowan 12 points, 4 rebounds. Gabe Steele 10 points. Ethan Taxis 10 points.
Riverside-Brookfield 81, Bartlett 58
St. Laurence 89, Don Bosco 73
St. Laurence (25-5): Reggie Stevens 24 points. Brad Stratton 15 points. Markese Peoples 13 points. Zerrick Johnson 12 points.
Somonauk 65, Ottawa Marquette 50
Somonauk (12-17): Brock Sexton 17 points. Silas Johnson 17 points. Weston Hannibal 15 points.
Warren 82, Zion-Benton 44
Warren (21-10, 9-5 North Suburban): Jaxson Davis 19 points. Zach Ausburn 12 points. Braylon Walker 10 points.
Waubonsie Valley 75, Naperville Central 59
Waubonsie (29-1, 9-0 DuPage Valley): School record for wins in a season.
Wauconda 78, Round Lake 53
Wauconda (10-21, 7-7 Northern Lake County): Alex Ortega 21 points, 3 steals. Leo Brinias 17 points, 6 steals.
Round Lake: Devin Powell 17 points. Jaquan Jamerson 16 points.
Waukegan 67, Stevenson 55
Waukegan (21-7, 11-3 North Suburban): Xavi Granville 19 points. Simereon Carter 15 points. Carter Newsome 13 points. Won share of conference title.

Stevenson (20-10, 11-3): Atticus Richmond 14 points, 6 rebounds. Rocco Pagliocca 12 points. Aidan Bardic 10 points, 5 assists. Won share of conference title.
Wheaton Warrenville South 61, St. Charles East 42

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CLASS 4A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

GENEVA

Batavia 55, Glenbard North 27

Batavia (23-9): Kaidyn King 13 points. Hallie Crane 10 points. Ali Thomas 10 points.

York 53, Geneva 29

HOFFMAN ESTATES

Conant 54, South Elgin 46

Fremd 90, Elgin 27

JOLIET WEST

Homewood-Flossmoor 59, Joliet West 31

H-F (23-9): Laila Williams 12 points. Jenesis Moore 11 points.

Sandburg 58, Rich Township 57

Sandburg (24-8): Olivia Prodoehl GW 3-pointer as time expired. Ellie Driscoll 12 points.

Monique Nkwogu 11 points. Olivia Trunk 10 points.

Rich Township (19-11): Sherri Emmons 22 points.

KENWOOD

Oak Lawn 48, Proviso East 34

Oak Lawn (22-10): Bianca Fleitas 12 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals. Teagan Krzystof 12 points.

Annie McGrath 11 points, 4 rebounds. Danielle Dempsey 8 points, 10 rebounds, 8 assists.

LAKE ZURICH

Lake Zurich 51, Warren 22

Waukegan 40, Mundelein 37

LARKIN

Hersey 58, Larkin 20

LEYDEN

Highland Park 50, Leyden 49

METEA VALLEY

Yorkville 61, Naperville Central 42

Yorkville (19-10): Brooke Spsychalski 20 points, 8 rebounds. Lainey Gussman 13 points, 8 rebounds. Sydney McCabe 11 points.

Naperville Central (13-19): Erin Hackett 15 points.

Bolingbrook 53, Metea Valley 35

NAZARETH

Hinsdale Central 72, Argo 13

PLAINFIELD NORTH

Downers Grove North 49, Neuqua Valley 25

Plainfield North 62, Oswego 40

ST. CHARLES NORTH

St. Charles North 78, Proviso West 28

STEVENSON

Stevenson 60, Schaumburg 15

Rolling Meadows 59, Streamwood 33

CLASS 3A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

BURLINGTON CENTRAL

Burlington Central 46, Prairie Ridge 45

Crystal Lake Central 66, IMSA 16

CRYSTAL LAKE SOUTH

Kaneland 68, Woodstock North 24

Kaneland (23-9): Kendra Brown 29 points. Amani Meeks 10 points.

DE LA SALLE

St. Laurence 48, De La Salle 30

RIDGEWOOD

Wauconda 61, Deerfield 41

Wauconda (23-3): Grace Parker 17 points, 9 rebounds. Emma Wisniewski 12 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals. Alexia Manalo 10 points, 4 assists, 4 steals.

Deerfield (7-23): Eve Engler 18 points, 3 blocks. Chloe Cooper 12 points, 5 steals.

ST. VIATOR

Vernon Hills 57, Lakes 35

Vernon Hills (20-11): Keira Thomas 19 points. Emma Jocson 13 points. Anahya Castro 11 points.

SIMEON

Evergreen Park 76, Vocational 25

THORNTON

Marian Catholic 58, Bremen 11

Marian (24-8): Taylor Bolton 12 points. Ty Jackson 10 points, 7 steals.

Thornton 31, Crete-Monee 27

Thornton (12-13): Kamiyah Boone 13 points. Sajda Tyehimba 9 points, 5 rebounds.

Crete (9-16): Morgan Johnson 8 points, 10 rebounds. Sakai Jones 10 rebounds.

CLASS 2A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

BEECHER

Manteno 46, Chicago Christian 29

Seneca 46, Beecher 29

COAL CITY

Joliet Catholic 36, Wilmington 33

JCA (7-25): Abby Dulinsky 20 points.

PRINCETON

Princeton 50, Sandwich 35

REGINA

Cristo Rey St. Martin 45, Chicago Academy 32

CLASS 1A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

INDIAN CREEK

Yorkville Christian 61, Hinckley-Big Rock 30

Yorkville Christian (19-8): Payton Wallin 23 points.

Serena 54, Indian Creek 23

MORGAN PARK ACADEMY

Morgan Park Academy 70, Islamic Foundation 14

Unity Christian 46, Fenger 34

NORTH SHORE

North Shore 41, Rochelle Zell 36

Willows 49, Woodlands 24

To read the full article, please click [here](#).

- Daily Herald - High school scores for Feb. 19

Date: February 19, 2025



Waukegan defeated Stevenson 67-55 on Wednesday night to tie the Patriots for the North Suburban Conference championship.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Boys basketball

Burlington Central 64, Hampshire 58

DeKalb 65, Metea Valley 53

Fenton 58, South Elgin 48

Geneva 49, St. Charles North 32

Glenbard North 64, Batavia 36

Glenbard South 51, Larkin 49

Kaneland 67, Oak Forest 32

Lake Forest 39, Lake Zurich 33

Lake Park 47, Wheaton North 39

Neuqua Valley 59, Naperville North 57

Rolling Meadows 69, Fremd 62

Schaumburg 65, Wheeling 40

Warren 82, Zion Benton 44

Waubonsie Valley 75, Naperville Central 59

Waukegan 67, Stevenson 55

West Aurora 73, Glenbard East 63

To read the full article, please click [here](#).