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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Dr. Scott M. Zraggen Named Pennsylvania's 2024 Assistant Principal of the Year**

**(ENOLA, PA) — Scott M. Zraggen, Ed.D.,** Assistant Principal of Springfield Township High School (Erdenheim, Pennsylvania) in the Springfield Township School District, has been named **Pennsylvania's 2024 Robert E. Lavelly Assistant Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Principals Association.** As a state winner in the National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) Assistant Principal of the Year Program, Dr. Zraggen is under consideration to be named the National Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year. In 2024, he will be honored by the PA Principals Association and NASSP at special award ceremonies.

According to PA Principals Association Executive Director, Dr. Eric C. Eshbach, "Our selection committee has once again identified a talented, passionate and dedicated educator to represent Pennsylvania as the 2024 Assistant Principal of the Year at the secondary level. The admirable qualities Dr. Scott Zraggen demonstrates in his devoted service to the students, staff and the entire Springfield Township High School community are what we seek in a candidate. Being an assistant principal can often be a thankless and grueling job, but Scott's enthusiasm for his students, his school and his fellow administrators demonstrates the importance of every member of the administrative team. Scott's pride in his role has been noticed across the state! I am pleased that Scott will represent the Pennsylvania Principals Association as our 2024 Assistant Principal of the Year."

Dr. Zraggen, or *Dr. Z*, as he is affectionately known within his school community, has worked in the Springfield Township School District for 27 years, serving in his current role as the assistant principal for 6.5 years, overseeing ninth- and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students, scheduling and curricular programming at Springfield Township High School. In addition, he served as Science Department Coordinator (1998-2004; 2010-2017) and as a member of the National Honor Society Selection Committee (2001-2017) and the Montgomery County Science Council (2001-2004; 2010-2017). Previously, he taught environmental science (advanced placement and academic), chemistry (honors and academic), physical science and biology (honors, academic and level one). He taught for nine years in California, beginning his career in education as a science teacher at West High School (1987-1990) and continuing at Vacaville High School (1990-1996). His experience as an animal handler/show performer at a theme park made him appreciate the role of educators in society.

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"I am both humbled and honored to receive this award from the PA Principals Association. To be honored by one's peers is incredibly gratifying, but the honor is not mine alone. I am lucky to be working with a talented group of administrators, teachers and staff members that support and collaborate with me to help guide our students forward," said Dr. Zraggen.

Dr. Zraggen's outstanding leadership and dedication have been demonstrated countless times through his commitment to his students, his school and his school community. During his leadership of the Science Department, new courses were successfully created, and the course sequence was changed. One of the courses, environmental science, was chosen by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a model class for all students in the state. He also collaborated with teachers from other departments to design and implement an innovative, interdisciplinary, team approach to teaching students who felt disenfranchised from school. During his tenure as assistant principal at Springfield Township High School, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the school's culture to prioritize the well-being and safety of every student and staff member, facilitating a conducive environment for productive learning and interaction. According to Dr. Zraggen, "One of the key aspects of this transformation has been my rapport with the students. I've worked tirelessly to establish a positive relationship with all students. This has led to the creation of a culture of trust and openness where students feel comfortable seeking help and guidance."

In addition, Dr. Zraggen spearheaded the co-development and implementation of the "Lunch and Learn" Program which has promoted a culture of knowledge, sharing, skill development and relationship-building between students and staff. During this 60-minute period, students are able to meet with teachers for coursework assistance. By bringing various stakeholders together during lunch time, the school promotes an atmosphere of community and collaboration that goes beyond traditional classroom settings. "My daily cafeteria presence during "Lunch and Learn" allows me to actively engage with students while ensuring a secure, respectful space for social interaction," he explained.

Dr. Zraggen has also championed and modeled co-teaching and differentiated instructional practices, project-based learning and encouraged students to enroll in internships, work study programs and dual enrollment courses to help satisfy their Senior Experience Program credit. He has also played an essential role in developing a sensible school dress code which focuses on promoting self-expression while maintaining a respectful, inclusive atmosphere. Dr. Zraggen believes that every person should be treated with dignity, respect and fairness, and with that in mind, he has implemented anti-bias training, restorative justice practices and clear disciplinary policies to foster an environment where equitable treatment is non-negotiable. In addition, he, and his school, empower student voice through project-based learning, student panel discussions and peer mentoring.

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“Dr. Scott Zraggen is a thoughtful, dedicated school leader. As a long-standing member of the Springfield Township High School community, he is skilled at balancing the demands and complexity of the role of assistant principal. He is supportive of all students, responsive to staff and committed to engaging with families. During his tenure as a school administrator, Dr. Zraggen has led the development of the high school schedule, including being instrumental in the launch of a "Lunch and Learn" period to support student access to staff and development of student agency during the school day. Since the start of the program in 2021, student performance in school courses has improved significantly, as has student engagement in extracurricular activities. Dr. Zraggen has also collaborated with staff members and central office administration to refine practices for student preparation and administration of Keystone Exams, which has led to growth in this area of academic achievement. He is a highly respected member of the administrative team, and we are thrilled that he has been selected as Assistant Principal of the Year in PA, a most deserving honor!” shared Dr. MaryJo Yannacone, Superintendent, Springfield Township School District.

Dr. Zraggen is a member of the Pennsylvania Principals Association and the NASSP. In addition, he presented with his district administrative team at the Pennsylvania Educational Leadership Summit, hosted by the PA Principals Association and the PA Association of School Administrators, in 2022 and 2023.

During his education career, Dr. Zraggen has received numerous accolades including the Spirit of Springfield Award (2017); the Dr. Norman Miller Scholarship for Educational Leadership (Awarded by Arcadia University's School of Education, 2015); the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction (2013); the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award (2011); Excellence in High School Chemistry Teaching (Awarded by the American Chemical Society, Philadelphia Chapter, 2006); a semi-finalist to The Discovery Center of Science and Technology's Hall of Fame (2004); the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator Award (2004); and recognition as an Influential Teacher (Awarded by the University Director of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences, 2002). Before coming to Pennsylvania, he was selected as the Outstanding Teacher of the Year by both the faculties of Vacaville High School (1996) and West High School (1990).

Dr. Zraggen received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of California (Davis) and a Master of Science in Environmental Science Education and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, both from Arcadia University.

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He resides in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, with his wife of 28 years, Marty. They share twin sons, Nick and Derek (26), and two dogs. Dr. Zraggen has lived in California, Alabama, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, Georgia and Pennsylvania, and has managed to visit all but three states (Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota) during his lifetime. In his down time, he enjoys traveling, trail/road biking, reading and collecting stamps.



**Scott M. Zraggen, Ed.D.**

***About the PA Principals Association:*** The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,300 is composed of elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals and other educational leaders and is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

**For more information about the PA Principals Association, please visit: [www.papprincipals.org](http://www.papprincipals.org)**

***The Mission of the Pennsylvania Principals Association:*** *To ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.*

***The Vision of the Pennsylvania Principals Association:*** *To be the best service organization of its kind in the United States.*

**For more information about Springfield Township High School and Springfield Township School District, visit: <https://www.sdst.org/>**

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