**EDUCATOR JIM REDING WINS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD**

GRANVILLE, OH, October 22, 2016 — Jim Reding, a teacher in Licking County, was recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), a leader in environmental education, as the recipient of one of NAAEE’s hallmark annual awards recognizing leadership in the field. At a special awards reception during NAAEE’s 45th Annual Conference in Madison, Wis., Reding received The K-12 Educator of the Year Award for his efforts in promoting environmental education and utilizing the environment as a context for learning in his teaching.

Reding teaches AP environmental science, ecology, and a summer class on sustainable agriculture. Many of his students have pursued degrees, internships, and careers in the environmental sciences. Along with his students, Reding developed an organic garden for their school, including raised beds, fruit trees, a hoop house, greenhouse, aquaponics, a rain garden, and solar panels. Many of the projects were responses to problems. Students identified problems and were mentored as they developed solutions to these real-world issues. From 2013 to the present day, Reding’s students are working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other community partners to develop a 50-acre land lab complete with prairies and wetlands.

"For more than four decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence and impact in environmental education thanks to the determined efforts of our members, supporters, and affiliate organizations," said Judy Braus, Executive Director. “Our award winners are truly inspirational educators and organizations across North America that exemplify the best in our field, showcasing multiple disciplines, approaches, and perspectives--from classroom to community to research--all working toward a more just and sustainable society."

This year, 11 award recipients — an impressive slate of individuals and organizations from North America —were selected across 11 categories. For more information about the 2016 NAAEE Awards including eligibility requirements and a full list of winners, visit [www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards](http://www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards).

**About NAAEE**

The North American Association for Environmental Education is a pioneering membership organization dedicated to accelerating environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators, researchers, and organizational members working in environmental education in more than 30 countries through direct membership and 53 regional affiliate organizations. Through community networks, publications, signature programs, eeNEWS and eeJOBS, NAAEE provides programming and resources for professionals working in all areas of the field. NAAEE’s annual conference, now in its 45th year, convenes leaders from private and public sectors to advance the field of environmental education. For more information, visit [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) and [www.naaee.org/eePRO](http://www.naaee.org/eePRO).

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