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## **New Bedford High School’s Takeru Nagayoshi receives 2020 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence**

*NEA Foundation honor comes with \$10,000 prize*

Takeru Nagayoshi, a New Bedford High School English teacher, has been awarded the prestigious 2020 Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence, the NEA Foundation announced this week. The NEA Foundation noted the award “recognizes educators for their diligence and dedication to students, colleagues, community, and their profession.”

The Massachusetts Teachers Association nominated Mr. Nagayoshi for the award. He is also recipient of the 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

In congratulating Mr. Nagayoshi, Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated, “It’s always wonderful to see a member of our faculty being recognized for the great work they do every day. In these most challenging of times for students and teachers, a component of teaching excellence is the creative determination and critical thinking required every day to bridge gaps and remove obstacles to learning. Mr. Nagayoshi embodies this and is truly preparing our students to be the best version of themselves in becoming deep thinkers, changers of the world.”

Bernadette Coelho, Headmaster of New Bedford High School said, “Mr. Nagayoshi guides his students through their work in a way that stimulates thoughtful discussion and deeper understanding. He exemplifies the talent and dedication of our New Bedford High faculty and we sincerely congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition.”

Mr. Nagayoshi is only one of five teachers nationally to be recognized for the award in 2020. Horace Mann Awardees receive \$10,000 and special recognition at the NEA Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala, which is planned to be presented virtually on February 21, 2021. Each honoree will be featured in a mini-documentary video

that will premiere at the gala. The NEA Awards Panel will also select one of the finalists to receive the NEA Member Benefits award and \$25,000 at the gala.

“These educators represent the best in public education through their passion for making a difference,” said Sara A. Sneed, President and CEO of the NEA Foundation. “Their schools and stories may be unique, but their dedication to educational excellence fulfills a shared commitment to keep the promise of public education. In ordinary times and amid the challenging circumstances we face today, educators are an enduring force for serving the whole child and building vibrant communities.”

“Today's educators are facing challenges they never could have envisioned,” said Marita Zuraitis, president and CEO of Horace Mann, a financial services company that has served educators for 75 years. “We value the investment all educators make to teach their students especially during these difficult times. They are the heart of their communities and we are proud to recognize the exceptional contributions and achievements of the Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence recipients.”

### **About the NEA Foundation**

The NEA Foundation is a national nonprofit organization that works to promote the absolute best in public education. The Foundation invests in educators' leadership, shared learning and collaboration; supports partnerships and initiatives that strengthen public education; and promotes improvements in public education policy and practice.

### **About Horace Mann**

Horace Mann Educators Corporation is the largest financial services company focused on providing America's educators and school employees with insurance and retirement solutions. Founded by Educators for Educators® in 1945, the company is based in Springfield, Illinois.

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