

## Jeffrey Taylor named Teacher of the Year

MAY 01, 2014 2:01 PM • BY DAILY SUN STAFF

A high school science teacher is the Coconino County Teacher of the Year.

Jeffrey Taylor, who teaches AP environmental science and chemistry at Flagstaff High School, accepted the award during ceremonies earlier today at the High Country Conference Center.

Taylor, 40, also was one of four winners of a Teacher Award for Sustainability Curriculum. He was hired at Flag High three years ago and said he wanted to ramp up academic expectations in the sciences.

"I did not want our students to be the one in three (college) freshmen who wind up dropping out after their first year," Taylor said.

In a video shown to an audience of about 300 before his selection was announced, Taylor said he aimed to be more than just an authority figure in the classroom.

"I try to connect with them by sharing my stories," he said. "I want to help them live their lives in a positive way and ... make good decisions that benefit society."

Other finalists were Jennifer Hamilton, director of bands at Coconino High School, and Patti Pastor, a teacher in the culinary arts program at Flag High.

Taylor will receive \$3,000 and a year's lease on a car from Findlay Toyota. Hamilton and Pastor will each receive \$1,000.

The awards were sponsored by the Coconino County Superintendent of Schools Office. For more on the awards, see Friday's Arizona Daily Sun.