



HERKIMER
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SUBJECT: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MEZIK HONORED BY NYSUT

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Herkimer, NY—Steven Mezik, assistant professor of biology at Herkimer County Community College, received one of New York State United Teachers' most prestigious statewide awards, "Higher Education Member of the Year," at the statewide union's annual convention held this month.

Mezik was honored for his professional excellence as an educator, his commitment to fostering a strong community on campus and his passion for a foundation he began, "Project Nino," which raises money so orphans in Ecuador can attend school.

A resident of West Winfield, Mezik is vice president of the Herkimer County Community College Professional Association, a NYSUT affiliate. "Steven Mezik embodies all the best qualities of an education union leader: professionalism, advocacy and compassion," said NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi. "He helps students understand that education goes hand-in-hand with making the world a better place for all people."

On campus, Mezik is chair of the union's Personnel Policies Committee and serves on the contract negotiations team. Academically, Mezik's work has brought grants from the National Science Foundation to HCCC and he has been nominated for the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

Off-campus, Mezik meets often with the Herkimer County Teachers Council to discuss college and K-12 collaboration. He also advocates in Albany with other NYSUT educators on budget issues. Mezik travels to Ecuador annually to oversee the administration of "Project Nino," facilitating the continuing care of the young people in the program.

Appointed to the HCCC faculty in 2001, Mezik holds a B.A. degree from Hartwick College and an M.S. degree from Texas Tech University.

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