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North teacher accepted to Supreme Court Summer Institute Program

Karen Spahr-Thomas will travel to Washington, D.C., for 6-day event

A social studies teacher at Downers Grove North High School is one of only 60 teachers from across the U.S. accepted into the Supreme Court Summer Institute Program.

Karen Spahr-Thomas, who has taught at the school since 2001, will travel to Washington, D.C. for the six day educational event in June. Teachers in the fields of law-related and civic education went through a highly selective and competitive application process

“I am honored to have been selected to participate in this prestigious program,” Spahr-Thomas said. “With Illinois’ new civics expectations as part of high



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Downers Grove North High Teacher Karen Spahr-Thomas was accepted to the Supreme Court Summer Institute Program.

school graduation requirements, I look forward to sharing the knowledge I will gain from the Supreme Court Institute with students and teachers in the district.”

The Institute is led by Supreme

Court experts, journalists, authors and lawyers, who provide educators with an in-depth understanding of the judicial process and equip them with skills and tools they need to train their fellow teachers at home.

North High Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction Janice Schwarze said Spahr-Thomas is the perfect candidate for the program.

“Karen advocates for all students and spends countless hours working with them before school, after school and during her lunch period,” says Schwarze. “She makes a point of getting to know each of her students personally; as a result, her students continually perform better than expected because they feel valued and empowered in her classes.”

The Supreme Court Historical Society and Street Law, Inc. co-sponsor the program. Street Law creates classroom and community programs that teach people about law, democracy and human rights worldwide.

To learn more about the Institute, visit www.streetlaw.org/en/programs/Program/10/Supreme_Court_Summer_Institute_for_Teachers#Tab=Overview.