A former Gothenburg teacher has been named one of four 2014 North Platte Public Schools Employees of the Year.

Leah Purdy, director of choirs at NPHS, is the Teacher of the Year for grades 6-12. She directs the mixed choir, concert choir and Blue and Gold Singers Jazz Choir and she teaches music appreciation.

Purdy is an adjunct faculty member for Mid Plains Community College offering her music appreciation class for dual credit and developing an online version of the class. She also directs a musical each year for NPHS.

Musicals under her direction have included “West Side Story,” “The Sound of Music,” “South Pacific,” “Into the Woods,” “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” “Cinderella,” “Anything Goes,” “Children of Eden” and, most recently, “Wizard of Oz.”

She also regularly performs throughout the state, having served as the soprano soloist in “The Messiah” with the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra three times in the last 10 years. In 2007, Leah was chosen as Nebraska Wesleyan University’s Outstanding Young Alumni for her accomplishments in teaching high school choral music.

Purdy conducts honor choirs across the state throughout the school year, most recently serving as the director for the Festival Choir at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Honor Choir Clinic.

She lives in North Platte with her husband Ryan and their three children: Elliott (12), Carly (9) and Addisyn (5).

The teachers will be honored at the Foundation’s “Education after Hours” event on Friday, April 4, at the Holiday Inn Express, 5:30-7:30 p.m.