

Brayer Teague



Brayer Teague recently retired from the faculty of Downers Grove (IL) North High School, where he taught for 30 years and served as the Chairperson for Fine Arts from 1996-2023. A Top-10 Finalist for the National GRAMMY Music Educator Award (2016), he was recognized five times by the Marquis “Who’s Who in American Teaching” and named a Golden Apple Scholar finalist. Teague, a *National Board-Certified Teacher*, received the *Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award* (2008), and was honored by the Illinois Music Education Association with the *Distinguished Service Award* (2022). Teague was recently named recipient of the *John P. Paynter Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in Music Education* (2023).

Teague holds music degrees from Northwestern University and the University of Michigan. He taught for three years in Highland Park, Illinois before serving the music faculty of Downers Grove North High School for thirty years (1993-2023). He completed additional graduate work in Educational Leadership at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, and continued his exploration of the arts through coursework at various colleges in photography, jewelry/metalwork, and ceramics. Teague has published educational materials for Microsoft Inc., co-authored a curriculum guide for the Illinois State Board of Education, and presented at national and international conferences.

Teague is a member of the Illinois Music Education Association, serving as the organization’s President from 2017-2019. During his twelve-year tenure on the ILMEA Board of Directors he coordinated the *Illinois All-State Music Composition Contest* for seven years, a nationally admired program that aims to foster and recognize outstanding student music composition.

Throughout his career Teague has been an advocate for expanding musical experiences beyond the walls of traditional classrooms. In addition to a bi-annual music and cultural exchange he coordinated with the Musikschule of Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, Teague led twenty-five student music tours to Austria, Canada, Czechia, England, France, Ireland, Italy and a host of cities in the United States.