

## University School Educator Recognized for Making a Difference

*(Adapted from Chicago Tribune article by Wendy Leopold)*

AP physics teacher Rafael Arechabaleta is one of five educators to receive the Northwestern University Distinguished Secondary Teacher Award. Arechabaleta was selected from a pool of more than 80 nominations. The award honors high school teachers who have touched the lives of Northwestern students, and is accompanied by \$2,500 for each teacher and \$2,500 for his or her school.



Arechabaleta was nominated by five arts and sciences seniors. Michael Dornbusch, Jonathan Schwartz, Matthew Adam Bartnovsky, Mitchell Drew and Kelly Flowers each expressed admiration for their Cuban-born teacher who received his undergraduate degree in the former Soviet Union.

Of his own teaching philosophy, Arechabaleta says: "Education provides students the latitude to form their own opinions and to challenge themselves and society around them. Having been educated in Communist Cuba where free thought was discouraged and educational resources were limited, I truly appreciate educational freedom and strive to

provide my students the opportunity to design their own curriculum."

Arechabaleta is the second teacher from University School of Nova Southeastern University to be awarded the Distinguished Secondary Teaching Award.

The distinguished teaching award is co-sponsored by the Associated Student Government and Office of the President. Eugene Lowe, assistant to Northwestern President Morton Schapiro and senior lecturer in religious studies, co-chaired the 2012 selection committee with Austin Young, Associated Student Government president.

Last fall's call for nominations by President Schapiro resulted in essays by 84 seniors who recommended their former high school teachers for the award. The selection committee considered those essays as well as portfolios submitted by the nominated teachers that included an explanation of their teaching philosophy and letters of recommendation.

The 2012 winners teach in high schools across the country, including an independent college preparatory school for boys in New Jersey, a private college preparatory school in Florida, a public college preparatory school in Chicago, a public high school in southern Illinois and a public high school in Pennsylvania.