

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ED SEE OUTSTANDING THEATRE ALUMNUS AWARD TO BE PRESENTED**

Warrensburg, MO - The University of Central Missouri Department of Theatre and Dance will present the Ed See Outstanding Theatre Alumnus Award to Donald L. Johnson on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the performance of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Dr. Ed See, on his retirement from the University of Central Missouri, established the Ed See Outstanding Theatre Alumnus Award through the University Foundation. The purpose of the endowment is to honor University of Central Missouri Theatre alumni who have in some way distinguished themselves in theatre education, community theatre, or in some area of professional theatre and have demonstrated commitment and love for the theatre arts. The award recognizes those alumni who have honored their alma mater through their dedication and various theatrical achievements.

Don Johnson graduated from Central Missouri State University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, Speech and Theatre with a minor in English. Don began teaching in 1999 at Raytown South High School until 2008. He returned to CMSU in 2001 to begin his post graduate degree in the summers. In 2006 he graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Master of Arts in Theatre. He has been teaching at Liberty High School since 2008. He has directed approximately 70 productions. Some of his favorites were *All My Sons*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *The Wizard of OZ*, *Macbeth*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Steel Magnolias*. In 2003-2004 he was awarded Teacher of the Year at Raytown South High School. In 2008-2009 he was awarded the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri Wayne Brown Award for Outstanding Teacher. He has directed three first place one acts at the Missouri State High School Activities Association Competition (2009, 2014, 2015), and has also directed 3 Best Actresses, 2 Best Actors, 2 Best Supporting Actors, and 1 Best Supporting Actress. Since joining the Starlight Theater's Blue Star Awards in 2012-2013 his productions have been nominated for Outstanding Overall Musical every year and, in 2013-14 *Tarzan* won Outstanding Overall Musical.