

Distinguished Alumni Award

Robert James Fitzgerald

The University High School Alumni Association honors Dr. Robert James Fitzgerald, class of 1992, as the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient for his contributions to his profession, school, and civic service.

Fitzgerald has donated a significant amount of his life to University High School through the roles of student, athlete, teacher, and coach. He will be the first to tell you that he wouldn't be where he's at today if it weren't for U-High.

Fitzgerald graduated from University High School in 1992. He enjoyed success in both academics and athletics at U-High, earning the selection of Honorable Mention All-Corn Belt Conference as a key player on the 1992 Runner-Up IHSA State Basketball Team.

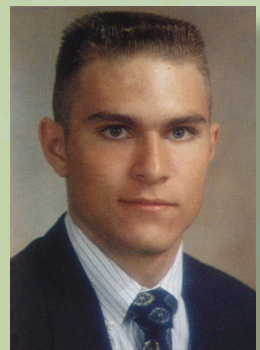
After high school, Fitzgerald initially attended Coe College, where he earned the honor of being selected to the Midwest Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference Basketball Team. He later went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in History Education at Illinois State University in 1997, where he was a Kappa Delta Pi Educational Honor Society Inductee. Fitzgerald also obtained both a Masters of Education in 2004 and a Doctor of Philosophy, Education in 2013 from Illinois State University.

Fitzgerald has enjoyed great success in his career as both a high school educator and coach. He began his teaching at Olympia High School in Stanford IL, where he served as a Social Science Teacher and Basketball Coach from 1997 through 2002. Fitzgerald's alma mater called him home in 2002, where he has held the roles of Social Science Teacher/Department Chair (2002-present), Boys Varsity Basketball Coach (2007-2016), and Assistant Activities Director for Student Life (2012-present). While an educator at U-High, he was named a Fulbright Distinguished Teacher and spent the Spring of 2017 at University College London's Institute of Education. Most recently he was named a 2019 Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction as well as a Barringer Fellow of the Monticello Teacher Institute.

In addition to his career, Fitzgerald has also demonstrated great leadership and service to his community. He continues to work with scholars from University College London's Institute of Education on the Justice to History Program where they focus their attention on making the curriculum more diverse, the purpose of his Fulbright Program. Fitzgerald is also a Muhammad Ali Center Educational Partner and is currently working with the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of Louisville on rewriting their core curriculum. He also periodically teaches classes for secondary level teaching majors in the College of Education as an assistant instructional professor.

Fitzgerald is extremely proud to be a member of the U-High family, and has served his school in so many positive ways over the years.

University High School



2019