

Roseanne Rosenthal Excellence in Teaching Award

Steven Sanders, B.M.Ed. 2009

Steven Sanders graduated Valedictorian of the class of 2009. While at VanderCook, he was involved in many extracurricular ensembles in addition to his band, choir and orchestra requirements: jazz ensemble, percussion ensemble and VanderCook's vocal jazz group, to name a few. Sanders student taught at the University of Chicago Lab School and Valparaiso High School. Prof. Kevin Lepper noticed Sanders' talent and dedication from the start. "Ever since Steven Sanders started at VanderCook he was pressing himself and his colleagues to be better. In the dictionary, 'on task' should probably have Steven's picture by it! His commitment to music, his students, and himself makes him a superb role model and educator."

Currently, Sanders is director of bands at UIC College Prep. He considers it a privilege to have had the opportunity to build this now 200-member program from the ground up.

95% of the students at UIC started playing their instruments in 9th grade, and it is Sanders' goal to "close the achievement gap" in order to make UIC College Prep's music program the elite program in the City of Chicago.



Sanders performing with the VanderCook Symphonic Band at Midwest in 2008