## Gahanna Lincoln High School 2015 ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

## **Tom Gregory**



Graduated...1983 Resides...Gahanna, Ohio

A 1983 graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School, Tom Gregory has become a fixture in the building as both a staff member and proud alumnus. Years after walking the halls as a student, Gregory teaches public speaking and television production to current high school students and is the force behind WGLH-TV.

"I graduated from Gahanna Lincoln High School myself 30 years ago," said Gregory. "I had some of the best teachers who made a huge difference in my life. The best thank you I could give would be to make a difference in my own students' lives."

Under his direction, TV broadcasting students at Gahanna Lincoln have had exposure at all levels. Gregory's lessons and coursework provide hands-on experience for students to learn the critical aspects of television production, including writing, editing, producing, as well as on-air skills. Student programming has debuted on local access and Time Warner Cable channels, and Student Emmy and High School Broadcast Journalism awards deck the television classroom walls.

Many students have continued their broadcast journalism education due to Gregory's influence, which is evident when happy alums return to share their career success stories with professional sports organizations or local news stations.

"Our family will always be grateful that Tom was such a significant and positive influence for our children during their time at Gahanna Lincoln," said nominator Mike Downing. "There's no greater representation of a teacher's role and importance than their influence on students. Tom Gregory is one of a kind."

Gregory is also known to the community as a preserver of history and champion for local veterans. The restored Jefferson Township one-room schoolhouse, sustained commitment to the central Ohio Honor Flight program, and construction of the GLHS veterans' memorial were ideas developed and executed by Gregory. He devised fundraising plans and lessons centered on student-service and collaboration.

"Tom was instrumental in the preservation of the one-room schoolhouse here in Gahanna," said Sharon Tomko, coordinator of community services, Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation. "He raised more than \$80,000 for a project that has become a sense of pride in our community."

"I wanted kids to be able to experience history," Gregory said. "I want them to be able to touch it and feel it."

His tireless efforts in the community and in the classroom have led to several state of Ohio 'Teacher of the Year' nominations and his attainment of the Master Teacher certification.

Gregory resides in Gahanna with his wife Karie (also a Gahanna educator) and their three sons.