

GW tutors take top awards

Computer plans get a big boost

By PAMELA AVERY
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

George Washington High School hit the jackpot.

Two of its math teachers were notified on Saturday that they received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

Those awards — given to Irwin Hoffman and Vaughan Aandahal — carry with them a \$10,000 prize for the school.

Two teachers are selected from each state, but the Denver pair are the only two from the same school to receive the award.

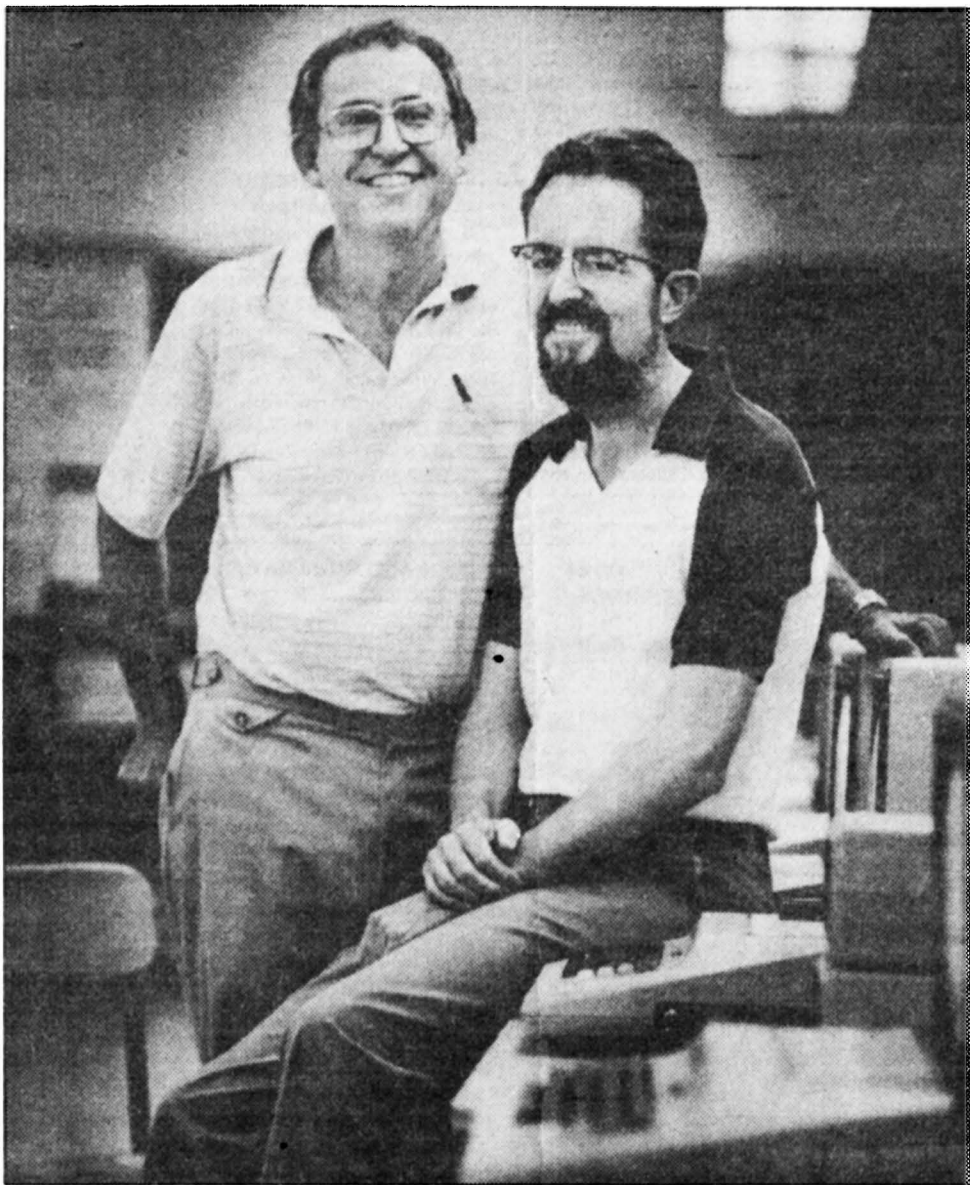
"It's a very unusual situation, first that they are from the same school and that they are both math teachers," said John Fowler, special projects director for the National Science Teachers Association, which conducted the contest. In most cases, a science and a math teacher was chosen from each state, he said.

"They're both very capable people. Their nomination (for the award) bears this out. I would say it speaks well for them and for the school," said Lawrence Corsa, principal of the 1,560-student high school at 655 S. Monaco Boulevard.

Both men have taught math, including computer science, at the high school since 1960. Hoffman, 51, established the country's first high-school-based computer education program. Aandahal, 46, recently published a textbook on PASCAL, a computer language.

Hoffman said he plans to use his prize money to design and build a system linking the Atari computers used by students. Currently, each of the 500 students enrolled in his courses each year needs his own information disk to use the computers.

Aandahal plans to purchase another



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN GORDON

Irwin Hoffman, left, and Vaughan Aandahal have won presidential awards in teaching.

computer and advanced computer textbooks for the school with his \$5,000.

Corsa said he was delighted with the use of the money.

"Each of these men had a goal for what they wanted for their classes. Now they'll be able to achieve that goal, and GW wins, too," said Corsa.

Hoffman and Aandahal will receive

their awards at a White House ceremony Oct. 19. They also will be honored by the National Science Foundation, which provided the prize money, and by the National Science Teachers Association.

The two were among four Coloradans nominated for the prize. The others were science teachers Evelyn Ruth Bank, who teaches at Westminster High, and John Akey of Colorado Springs.