



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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Four Named 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year State Semi-Finalists

LITTLE ROCK — Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key recognized the 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year State Semi-Finalists at a ceremony today at the Capitol.

“I congratulate the four state semi-finalists for their dedication to their students, school and community,” Key said. “These four have demonstrated strong leadership, commitment and best practices in education. They serve as models of excellence in education.”

The four state semi-finalists are as follows:

Courtney Cochran

10th-12th Grade Spanish
Van Buren High School
Van Buren School District
Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative

Julia Crane

Kindergarten-5th Grade English as a Second Language
Monitor Elementary School
Springdale School District
Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Brian Leonard

11th-12th Grade AP Statistics and AP Calculus
Lake Hamilton High School
Lake Hamilton School District
Dawson Education Cooperative

Emma Mateo

Kindergarten-5th Grade Literacy and Mathematics

Otter Creek Elementary School (who now works at Pinnacle View Middle School)
Little Rock School District
Pulaski County

The four state semi-finalists were chosen from among the 14 regional finalists, who were recognized at today's ceremony. The ATOY Selection Committee will conduct site visits with the state semi-finalists. The visits will include observation in the classroom, as well as interviews with the state semi-finalists and school administrators. The 2017 ATOY will be recognized at a surprise ceremony later this fall.

The state semi-finalists received a medallion and certificate at today's event. Each regional finalist received a \$1,000 award sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation. The 2017 ATOY will receive an additional \$14,000.

To learn more about the ATOY program, visit
<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

Pictured Below (left to right): ADE Commissioner Johnny Key; Julia Crane, Monitor Elementary School, Springdale School District; Brian Leonard, Lake Hamilton High School, Lake Hamilton School District; Emma Mateo, Otter Creek Elementary School (who now works at Pinnacle View Middle School), Little Rock School District; Courtney Cochran, Van Buren High School, Van Buren School District; and Gov. Asa Hutchinson

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