15 Teachers Named Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce the names of the 15 exceptional teachers named 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists. Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key will recognize the regional finalists and announce the four state semi-finalists at a special event August 1 at the Governor's Mansion.

“I am extremely proud of each of these regional finalists,” Key said. “From their tireless dedication to the teaching profession to their commitment to ensuring their students graduate prepared for college, career, and community engagement, these 15 educators are among the best of the best. With their hard work and dedication, we will achieve our vision of leading the nation in student-focused education.”

2020 ATOY Regional Finalists

Cana Able
Grades 10-11 English Language Arts
Academies of West Memphis
West Memphis School District
Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative

Catherine Beckham
Grades 10-12 Orientation to Teaching I and II and Senior Internships
Mountain Home High School Career Academies
Mountain Home School District
Northcentral Education Service Cooperative

Jennifer Brown
Kindergarten
Walnut Ridge Elementary School
Lawrence County School District
Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
Raelin Duck-Schroeder  
Grades 9-12 Pre-AP English, AP English, General English, Drama, and Teacher Cadets  
Stuttgart High School  
Stuttgart School District  
Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative

Lindsey Duncan  
Grade 4 Literacy  
Southside Elementary School  
Cabot School District  
Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative

Mary Dunn  
Grade 6 Special Education  
College Hill Middle School  
Texarkana Arkansas School District  
Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative

Marcus Jones  
Grades 10-12 English  
The Academies at Jonesboro High School  
Jonesboro School District  
Crowley’s Ridge Educational Service Cooperative

Joel Lookadoo  
Grade 9 Algebra 1  
Lakeside Junior High School  
Springdale School District  
Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Clarissa Mays  
Grades 9-12 EAST and Computer Science  
Arkadelphia High School  
Arkadelphia School District  
Dawson Education Cooperative

Brenda Nolan  
Grades K-3 Literacy/Reading  
Hermitage Elementary School  
Hermitage School District  
Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

Barry Reese  
Grades 5-8 History  
Lead Hill Elementary School and Lead Hill High School  
Lead Hill School District  
Ozarks Unlimited Resource Educational Service Cooperative
The Arkansas Teacher of the Year program is part of the National Teacher of the Year program, which recognizes teachers for their teaching and leadership skills. The 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, who will be announced this fall, will apply to become the 2020 National Teacher of the Year.

This year’s regional finalists will each receive a $1,000 award made possible by a grant provided by the Walton Family Foundation, a long-time supporter of the program. The four state semi-finalists announced August 1 are selected from the 15 regional finalists. One of the four state semi-finalists will be named the 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Some State Board of Education members plan to attend the August 1 event at the Governor’s Mansion, but no official business will be conducted.

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

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