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ALABAMA TEACHERS RECOGNIZED FOR ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING IN MATH AND SCIENCE
Six Elementary School Teachers Named Presidential Finalists

Montgomery, Ala. – Six Alabama teachers are finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) – the nation’s highest honors for K-12 mathematics and science teachers. The awards recognize teachers for contributions to the classroom and to the profession. This year’s awards honor elementary (Grades K-6) school teachers.

Alabama’s Presidential Finalists are:

Mathematics Finalists
- **Kim Bowen**, Rainbow Elementary School, Madison City
- **Christi Lambert**, Weeden Elementary School, Florence City
- **Heather Simpson**, Hueytown Elementary School, Jefferson County

Science Finalists
- **Debra Elmore**, Athens Intermediate School, Athens City
- **Julie Neidhardt**, Dawes Intermediate School, Mobile County
- **Taryn Sanders**, G.W. Carver Elementary School, Macon County

-**more**-
“Mathematics and science are vital parts of curriculum in today’s STEM–oriented world,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tommy Bice. “The teachers honored by the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are challenging their students to think critically and solve complex problems with no obvious answer – helping them to develop the 21st century skills business and industry are asking of Alabama’s graduates.”

Alabama’s Presidential Finalists will be recognized Wednesday, March 11, 2015, by the Alabama State Board of Education at 1 p.m. in the Gordon Persons Building Auditorium, 50 N. Ripley Street, Montgomery. Prior to the board meeting, they will be honored at an awards luncheon at 11 a.m. at the RSA Plaza Terrace, 770 Washington Ave., 6th Floor.

Each Presidential Finalist will receive the NSF Certificate of Honor in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The awards luncheon is sponsored by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics, the Council of State Science Supervisors and the White House Office of Science and Technology.

Enacted by Congress in 1983 and administered by the NSF on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the PAEMST program identifies eligible K-12 teachers who exemplify the highest standards of mathematics and science teaching. Since 1983, more than 4,300 teachers have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education.

For the 2015 Awards, nominate outstanding secondary (Grades 7-12) mathematics and science teachers by April 1, 2015. For more information, visit www.paemst.org, or contact Dr. Carolyn Townsend, Office of Instructional Services, Alabama Department of Education, 334-353-5440 or ctownsend@alsde.edu.