FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2019

U.S. Secretary of Education Announces Recipients of the 2019 Terrel H. Bell Awards for Outstanding School Leadership

Montgomery, AL - U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos today announced the 2019 recipients of the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership.

The 10 principals from the 2019 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored during the National Blue Ribbon Schools awards ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

The 2019 recipients are:

- **AL** – Mobile - Eichold-Mertz Magnet School of Math, Science, & Technology - Michelle DuBose Adams
- **CA** – Fresno - Liberty Elementary School - George Petersen
- **CT** – Meriden - John Barry Elementary School - Daniel Crispino
- **HI** – Honolulu - Lt. Col. Horrace Meek Hickam Elementary School – Alisa Bender
- **IL** – Chicago - Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy - Shane Staszczuk
- **IN** – Plainfield - Van Buren Elementary School - Ray Helmuth
- **IN** – Unionville - Unionville Elementary School - Lily Albright
- **NY** – Brooklyn - PS 253, The Magnet School of Multicultural Humanities – Lisa Ditillo Speroni
- **TX** – Brownsville - Hubert R. Hudson Elementary School - Rachel Ayala
- **TX** – Dallas - Jack Lowe Sr. Elementary School - Sandra Barrios

See the official bio information about each of these national recipients at: https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/2019-terrel-h-bell-awardees-honored-for-outstanding-school-leadership/

"Bell awardees are truly extraordinary principals," Secretary DeVos said. "These principals are models of transformative leadership, capable of articulating—and realizing—a vision of school as a community where every student and every adult thrives through learning. They are also skilled communicators who convey faith in the ability of students and staff to rise to high expectations."

Named for the second U.S. Secretary of Education, the Bell Award honors school leaders who are committed to education as a powerful and liberating force in people’s lives. The award is part of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

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Alabama Educator Recipient of 2019 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership

Principals are nominated by their school communities during the final stages of the National Blue Ribbon Schools application process.

The U.S. Department of Education, together with the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the Association for Middle Level Education, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, present the Bell Awards to principals of National Blue Ribbon Schools for their outstanding work and the vital role they play in guiding their students and schools to excellence, frequently under challenging circumstances.

Learn more about National Blue Ribbon Schools and the Terrel H. Bell Award at:

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