



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

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Governor Kay Ivey
President

**WEEDEN ELEMENTARY TEACHER ANA CAROLINA BEHEL IS
2019-2020 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR!**

Auburn High School Teacher Jacque Middleton Named State's Alternate Teacher of the Year

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Montgomery, Ala. – The list of 16 finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year has been officially narrowed to *Alabama's most outstanding educator!* A top Florence City School System educator, who makes it her personal mission to effectively develop the language and communication skills of all students, is Alabama's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

Tracie West
District II



Ana Carolina Behel, who teaches English Language Development at Weeden Elementary School will serve as the state's ambassador for public education and the teaching profession.

Stephanie Bell
District III

Behel, who is a National Board Certified Teacher and a first-generation college graduate, automatically becomes Alabama's nominee for National Teacher of the Year. "I am so proud and thankful for this opportunity to represent the Great State of Alabama as the 2019-2020 State Teacher of the Year," said Behel.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Behel believes all K-12 students must have supportive learning environments, which inspire them to fully develop their language and communication skills to ensure success in all academic opportunities.

Ella B. Bell
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI
Vice President

It was announced that Behel was chosen to serve as the official spokesperson and representative for teachers in Alabama for the next year, near the end of a special celebration honoring the 12 semi-finalists and 4 finalists who were nominated for the coveted title.

Jeff Newman
District VII
President Pro Tem

See the official video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIXaVjr3Qt8&feature=youtu.be>

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Behel, who was raised in Guatemala and who also speaks fluent Spanish, enjoys working with English Language Development students and families. Her personal experiences have inspired her to use a student-centered approach in the classroom and to design challenging curriculum, which engages all students to learn at the highest levels of achievement.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

Auburn High School teacher Jacque Middleton was named Alabama's Alternate Teacher of the Year during the ceremony. By the age of 11, Jacque Middleton had lived in three different cities and had already attended four different schools. She always found real comfort in her schoolwork, and no one in her family was surprised when she decided to pursue a career in teaching K-12 science and STEM classes.

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2019-2020 Alabama Teacher of the Year Named – Ana Carolina Behel



She now teaches engineering courses at Auburn High School and sponsors local Science Olympiads, Engineering Fairs, and other innovative academic events. She promotes student success through technology. Having grown up in many different regions of the United States, she has gained a unique perspective on teaching. She has seen the true value of exposing students to engaging learning experiences.

Alabama’s Teacher of the Year spends the majority of the school year serving as a spokesperson for education and the teaching profession, as well as presenting workshops to various groups statewide.

Additionally, Alabama’s representative is a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey said it is an honor to join in the recognition of these exemplary educators. “Teachers of the Year are highly skilled and dedicated professionals who work hard to ensure the future prosperity of our great nation. These educators have shown Alabama’s students, parents, and local communities a wonderful example of educational excellence and commitment,” said Mackey.

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