FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Communication
(334) 694-4686
comm@alsde.edu

ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED TODAY!
Rising Above the Challenges - Committed to Teaching Excellence

Montgomery, Alabama – In honor of Alabama’s outstanding educators, we salute the 2020-2021 finalists for Alabama Teacher of the Year.

The educators selected for this prestigious honor have proven their ability to reach students in the classroom and to engage families to support student achievement at higher levels.

Our Teachers of the Year have also been resilient and innovative in their educational outreach. This year’s 16 state finalists have emerged from a group of over 140 highly skilled educators who submitted official applications. The Alabama Teacher of the Year Program is one of our state’s oldest and most esteemed awards programs.

Alabama State Department of Education – 2020-2021 District Teachers of the Year

Michelle Wade
Saraland Early Education Center
Saraland City School System
District One Elementary Teacher of the Year

David Dai
Alma Bryant High School
Mobile County School System
District One Secondary Teacher of the Year

Kathryn Knorr
Ogletree Elementary School
Auburn City School System
District Two Elementary Teacher of the Year

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ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED TODAY!

Jessica Bowlin
Auburn High School
Auburn City School System
District Two Secondary Teacher of the Year

Meredith Mitchell
Redland Elementary School
Elmore County School System
District Three Elementary Teacher of the Year

Michael Sinnott
Vestavia Hills High School
Vestavia Hills City School System
District Three Secondary Teacher of the Year

Paul David Kelsey
Pleasant Grove Elementary School
Jefferson County School System
District Four Elementary Teacher of the Year

Rebecca Blumenfeld
George Washington Carver High School
Birmingham City School System
District Four Secondary Teacher of the Year

Sontessia L. Youngblood
Banks School
Pike County School System
District Five Elementary Teacher of the Year
ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED TODAY!

Hannah Hamm Bradford
Pike Road High School
Pike Road City School System
District Five Secondary Teacher of the Year

Andrew Fletcher Jackson
Eden Elementary School
Pell City School System
District Six Elementary Teacher of the Year

Niki L. Bowling
Arab High School
Arab City School System
District Six Secondary Teacher of the Year

Chelsea Byrd
Maddox Intermediate School
Jasper City School System
District Seven Elementary Teacher of the Year

Alana White
Pinson Valley High School
Jefferson County School System
District Seven Secondary Teacher of the Year

Tonia Wilburn
Plainview School
DeKalb County School System
District Eight Elementary Teacher of the Year

—more—
ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED TODAY!

Angela M. Jackson Pettus
Athens High School
Athens City School System
District Eight Secondary Teacher of the Year

This pool of outstanding educators will be narrowed down to the top four. The 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year will be announced in August.

Alabama’s Teacher of the Year spends the majority of the school year serving as a full-time ambassador for education and the teaching profession, as well as presenting workshops to various groups and participating on the national level.

Reflecting on her experiences as the most recently announced finalist and Alabama’s current Teacher of the Year, Ana Behel, said, "As I reflect on my journey as the 2019-2020 Alabama Teacher of the Year, I would like to send a message of appreciation and solidarity to all my fellow educators during this critical time. Even though we do not claim to have all the answers and are still exploring an uncharted territory, we are modeling for our students the power of having a growth mindset and not giving up as we work hard to identify the most effective ways to reach them."

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