



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 13, 2020

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Governor Kay Ivey
President

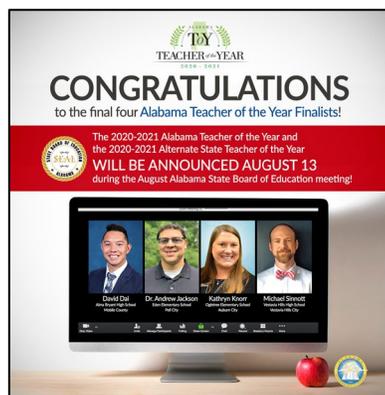
ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED - EDEN ELEMENTARY'S DR. ANDREW JACKSON SELECTED TODAY AS THE 2020-2021 TOP EDUCATOR

"Alma Bryant High School's David Dai Named State's Alternate Teacher of the Year!"

Jackie Zeigler
District I
Vice President

Montgomery, Ala. – During the Alabama State Board of Education Meeting held in

Tracie West
District II



Montgomery today, each of this year's 16 state Teacher of the Year finalists were officially recognized and celebrated by Governor Kay Ivey and members of the Alabama State Board of Education. During the meeting's *State Superintendent's Report*, a special announcement was made.

Stephanie Bell
District III

The list of 16 finalists was officially narrowed to the state's most outstanding educator.

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
President Pro Tem

Dr. Andrew Fletcher Jackson, who teaches fourth grade at Eden Elementary School, has been named the 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year (TOY).

Tommy T. Stewart, Ph.D.
District V

He will serve as the state's official ambassador for public education and the teaching profession. As an accomplished educator in the Pell City School System, Dr. Jackson inspires every student to achieve. His background is in special education and general education.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI



"I believe that all learning starts with handling adversity and managing one's emotions," said Jackson. "True learning requires perseverance, problem-solving, and personal connection. Such traits are prerequisites for a child to remain motivated when learning a math strategy that may seem too difficult at first, or even applying a challenging new reading skill. It is important for educators to provide real-world experiences to help students connect their learning to the world around them."

Jeff Newman
District VII

Dr. Jackson is a top educator, mentor, and a great professional inspiration for teachers statewide. He works to cultivate these principles throughout his personal life too.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

He and his wife Sheree are also dedicated foster parents who have provided a loving home to several adopted children – some with special needs.

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

See Dr. Jackson's online social media video at: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1272985712430907392>

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Today, Alma Bryant High School teacher David Dai was also named Alabama’s Alternate Teacher of the Year during the Alabama State Board of Education Meeting.

The son of great parents who immigrated to Alabama from Vietnam, highly respected educator David Dai learned at a young age how to be supportive and helpful to others.



At the age of seven, he held the important responsibility of translating for his parents and their friends during their medical appointments and school parent-teacher meetings.

His parents instilled a lasting appreciation for education in him.

Now as an outstanding educator at Alma Bryant High School, Alabama’s Alternate Teacher of the Year David Dai truly inspires his students with this same appreciation for achievement and learning.

He teaches mathematics at Alma Bryant High School and advises district scholar’s bowl teams and community service initiatives within the Mobile County Public School System.

Alabama Alternate Teacher of the Year David Dai also promotes student success through a keen focus on educational classroom research and technology.

He has led his fellow teachers through book studies designed to improve peer collaboration and to support professional growth. He has also completed research on how language and communication may affect test scores.

See Mr. Dai’s online social media video at: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1272917435499319296>

Additional Information

After being selected, the Alabama Teacher of the Year spends the majority of the school year serving as an official spokesperson for education. The Alabama Teacher of the Year presents professional workshops and information to various groups throughout the state and nation. Additionally, our state Teacher of the Year is also our official candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Eric Mackey said it is exciting to recognize these wonderful educators. “Alabama Teacher of the Year, Dr. Andrew Jackson, and Alabama Alternate Teacher of the Year, Mr. David Dai, truly exemplify the professionalism and great personal commitment of Alabama’s educators,” said Mackey. “Both of these outstanding teachers embody a real dedication to classroom excellence. We are so proud to have these top educators representing Alabama teachers and our entire education community.”

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