FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT AT UPCOMING AUGUST STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

AND THE 2020-2021 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR IS...

WHAT:

• The 2020-2021 Alabama Teacher of the Year and Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year will be officially announced at the upcoming State Board of Education Meeting

WHEN:

• 10:00 a.m. Thursday, August 13, 2020
• Alabama Teacher of the Year and Alternate Teacher of the Year will join meeting via Web Ex, after naming
• Announcement will be made during the State Superintendent’s Report agenda period

WHERE:

• LIVE online viewing of meeting and announcement will be available at https://livestream.com/accounts/26314369.

WHO:

• The Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama Teacher of the Year finalist

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Alabama Teacher of the Year (TOY) Program is one of our state’s oldest and most esteemed awards programs. This year’s four finalists have been selected from a group of more than 150 highly skilled educators. The 2020-2021 finalists are:

The Alabama Teacher of the Year spends the school year serving as an official spokesperson for state education and the teaching profession.

The Teacher of the Year also represents Alabama for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION - FINAL FOUR TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES

Andrew Fletcher Jackson, Eden Elementary School, Pell City School System
Alabama educator and National Board Certified Teacher, Dr. Andy Jackson is a fourth-grade teacher who has a background in both special and general education. He was raised by his grandparents. They instilled in him an appreciation for always looking for the best in people regardless of their personal circumstances. While attending high school, Jackson worked for various childcare centers, youth summer camps, and after-school programs. He developed a real appreciation for serving others and inspiring young people to achieve. Jackson and his wife Sheree are also dedicated foster parents who have provided a loving home to several adopted children – some with special needs. Dr. Jackson is a top educator, mentor, and inspiration for other teachers.

Kathryn Knorr, Ogletree Elementary School, Auburn City School System
Alabama educator and National Board Certified Teacher Kathryn Knorr had the desire to become a teacher from a young age. Much of this personal inspiration was sparked through countless days of watching her mother positively impact the lives of students as a teacher. At a young age, Knorr was mentored by veteran educators and spent summers assisting with classroom set ups for the upcoming school year. Now, over her own teaching career, Knorr has dedicated her life to inspiring student success too. She has had opportunities to display real educational leadership. She supervises student interns, mentors new teachers, serves as a grade-level coordinator, and has chaired Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement teams in her local community. National Board Certified Teacher Kathryn Knorr is a highly respected Alabama educator.

David Dai - Alma Bryant High School, Mobile County School System
The son of wonderful parents who immigrated to Alabama from Vietnam, educator David Dai learned at a young age how to serve others in his community. At the age of seven, he was thrust into the important responsibility of translating for his parents and their friends during medical appointments and school parent-teacher conferences. His parents instilled a lasting appreciation for education in him and Alabama educator David Dai went on to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degrees from The University of Alabama. Now as a beloved educator at Alma Bryant High School, he inspires his students with this same appreciation for learning and achievement. He advises local scholar’s bowl teams, leads community service projects, and has earned essential grants for local after-school programs. This top educator has committed his career to inspiring student excellence.

Michael Sinnott - Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills City School System
Alabama educator Michael Sinnott believes in all students and allows them to cultivate their individual voices and academic skills. After losing his father during middle school he found wonderful guidance and support from his teachers. Now as a highly skilled educator himself, Sinnott inspires his students to be their best. After he became the AP English Program Coordinator at Vestavia Hills High School, class enrollment tripled and has maintained at least a 98 percent student passage rate. Sinnott has also served as a personal mentor to other educators in his community. He has been recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Presidential Distinguished Teacher. Sinnott has also committed his professional efforts to teaching students interested in mock legislature and scholar’s bowl events. His students have earned honors at the national level.

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