



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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State Finalists for Presidential Award for Excellence Announced

LITTLE ROCK — Six Arkansas teachers were recently selected as 2018 state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

- Amy Burks – Crestwood Elementary, North Little Rock School District
- Stacy Dustman - Elza R. Tucker, Rogers School District
- Anna Shaw – J.O. Kelly Middle School, Springdale School District
- Cheri DeSoto – Holt Middle School, Fayetteville School District
- Joyce Dooley – Ardis Ann Middle School, Bentonville School District
- Tonya Hogue – Mayflower Elementary School, Mayflower School District

The National Science Foundation, on behalf of The White House, oversees the program that recognizes outstanding teachers who have demonstrated a commitment to professional development, innovative teaching techniques and technology use in their classrooms.

“Our teachers are truly invaluable,” Gov. Asa Hutchinson said. “The job that our educators do each day is instrumental in creating growth and opportunities for our state and our citizens. I appreciate all that these six finalists have done to ensure our students receive the best science and mathematics education that Arkansas can give.”

A total of 51 Arkansas teachers were nominated. The state review committee selected DeSoto, Dooley, and Hogue as science finalists and Burks, Dustman, and Shaw as mathematics finalists. Arkansas’ finalists are now eligible to be considered for recognition by the national committee.

Each year a national committee comprised of scientists, mathematicians and educators recommends up to 108 teachers to receive PAEMST awards in mathematics, science, and computer science from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. territories, and schools operated in the United States and overseas by the Department of Defense Education Activity. Teachers who are selected as national PAEMST awardees each receive a \$10,000 award, a presidential citation, and a trip to Washington, DC, for a series of recognition events, professional development activities and an awards ceremony.

The State Board of Education and Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key will honor the 2018 finalists at the December 13, 2018, State Board meeting in Little Rock. To learn more about the awards program, go to <https://www.paemst.org/>.

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