CORRECTION - Cheri DeSoto and Tiffany Taylor were inadvertently listed under the incorrect year in the original version of the press release.

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Recipients of 2017 and 2018 Presidential Awards for Excellence Announced

LITTLE ROCK — Four Arkansas teachers were recently selected as recipients of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Two educators received the recognition for 2017 and two for 2018.

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

2017 Recipients

- Corey Boby, Benton High School, Benton School District, Math
- Tiffany Taylor, Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers School District, Science

2018 Recipients

- Cheri DeSoto, Holt Middle School, Fayetteville School District, Science
- Anna Shaw, J.O. Kelly Middle School, Springdale School District, Math

“l am extremely proud of these educators for their dedication and commitment to math and science education,” Gov. Asa Hutchinson said. “These four join numerous others around the state in ensuring our students graduate prepared for college, career, and community engagement. I commend them on achieving this national recognition and know that their students greatly benefit from their knowledge, expertise, and exceptional teaching.”

Recipients receive a $10,000 award, presidential citation, and a trip to Washington, DC, for a series of recognition events, professional development activities, and an awards ceremony.

Each year math and science educators are nominated on the state level, with state finalists submitted for potential national recognition. A national committee comprised of scientists, mathematicians, and educators reviews all state finalists and recommends up to 108 teachers to receive PAEMST awards in mathematics, science, and computer science. Winners are chosen 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.
Recently, state finalists for the 2019 awards were named. The application cycle for 2020 will open soon, with the deadline to apply in April 2020. For questions about the application process, please contact Veronica Hebard, ADE’s Division of Elementary and Secondary Education math specialist, at (501) 682-0488. To learn more about the awards program, go to https://www.paemst.org.

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Pictured from left to right: Cheri DeSoto, Anna Shaw, Tiffany Taylor, and Corey Boby.