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Applications Being Accepted for Computer Science Educator of the Year Award

LITTLE ROCK — Gov. Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Education are once again searching for the best computer science educator in the state.

Applications are now being accepted for the Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year award for the 2019-2020 school year. This award is open to anyone holding an Arkansas educator's license who is currently working in a K-12 public school and demonstrates a strong commitment to the Computer Science Initiative in their school and community.

"The success of the Arkansas Computer Science Initiative is due in large part to the extremely knowledgeable and dedicated educators who have embraced the initiative," Hutchinson said. "These educators deserve recognition for a job well done. It was a great highlight of mine last year to recognize our inaugural Computer Science Educator of the Year and finalists, and I am happy to announce the continuation of this program that recognizes the best computer science teachers in our state."

Five finalists will be selected from the applicants, with each receiving a $2,500 prize. Of the finalists, one will be selected as the Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year and will receive an additional $12,500 award. In addition, the winner will receive paid registration and travel to the ADE 2020 Summit and a $2,000 sponsorship to attend the Computer Science Teachers Association's annual conference in Arlington, Virginia, in 2020.

"I was honored to be chosen as the 2019 Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year," Karma Turner, Lake Hamilton computer science teacher, said. "As educators, we should take advantage of opportunities to share what we are doing with and for our students. By sharing successes in our own classroom, we can inspire other educators to be more innovative and diverse in their practice as well. Applying for opportunities such as the Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year award is one very important way educators can inspire others to diversify and innovate their practice. I would like to encourage all Arkansas educators to apply to be Arkansas' 2020 Computer Science Educator of the Year. Your impact on students in our state will be powerful and far-reaching."

To apply, visit http://bit.ly/ARCSEOY2020. Applications will be accepted through the end of February 2020. The five finalists will be announced by the end of March, with the winner announced in May 2020.

Computer Science Education Week

Computer Science Education Week is from December 9-15, 2019. Arkansas is releasing computer science announcements throughout the week. To see the announcements that are made, visit the ADE computer science webpage at http://bit.ly/ARCSedWeek.

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