



# Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

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## **Gov. Hutchinson, ADE Announce First Recipient of Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year Award**

**LITTLE ROCK** — Gov. Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Education are excited to announce that Karma Turner, a computer science teacher at Lake Hamilton High School in Percy, was selected as the first recipient of the Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year award. The announcement was made at a press conference today at the Capitol.

"The creativity and enthusiasm of these five stellar teachers is evident in classrooms around the state. These teachers, and so many like them, are the reason we are on the national map as a leader in computer-science education," Governor Hutchinson said. "It is a pleasure to recognize these finalists and honor Ms. Karma Turner as our state's first Computer Science Educator of the Year. These educators are preparing our students for a good career, and in the process, they are ensuring Arkansas will have a solid workforce that will keep our economy strong."

"Since the launch of the Computer Science Initiative, we have made tremendous progress in building a nationally-recognized program that serves as a model for all states," Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key said. "We could not have achieved this success without the guidance and hard work from outstanding teachers who are devoted to their students each and every day. The five finalists not only serve as leaders at their schools and across the state, they also serve as models of excellence around the country. I commend each of them for their commitment to education, and I congratulate Ms. Turner for receiving this high honor. Through their commitment to education, we are leading the nation in student-focused education."

Five state finalists, including Turner, were recognized today at the press conference.

- Carl Frank, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts in Hot Springs
- Josefina Perez, Springdale High School in the Springdale School District
- Brenda Qualls, Bryant High School in the Bryant School District
- Kimberly Raup, Conway High School in the Conway School District
- Karma Turner, Lake Hamilton High School in the Lake Hamilton School District

Turner was selected through a rigorous review process. The #CSforAR / #ARKidsCanCode specialist team reviewed all 30 applications and selected the five state finalists, which were recognized today. Education and computer science representatives then reviewed the finalists' applications and selected Turner as the winner. Each review group considered the overall quality of each application;

the applicants' vision for and understanding of the value of computer science education; their understanding of how their implementation of computer science education exemplifies quality teaching; and the current and long-term impact on computer science education locally, statewide, and nationally.

During the press conference, each finalist received \$2,500 and a recognition plaque, with Turner receiving an additional \$12,500 and a 2019 Computer Science Educator of the Year trophy. The awards were provided through funding from the ADE Office of Computer Science, a special project unit formed to implement Hutchinson's Computer Science Initiative.

Arkansas is recognized nationally and internationally as leading the computer science education movement through Hutchinson's #CSforAR / #ARKidsCanCode initiative. To learn more, visit <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/special-projects/arkansas-computer-science-initiative>.

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