



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Jacob Oliva, Secretary

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner

Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner

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CONTACT: Kimberly Mundell

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

kimberly.mundell@ade.arkansas.gov

State Finalists for 2023 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Announced

LITTLE ROCK — Seven Arkansas teachers were recently selected as 2023 state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

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.

The following educators were selected as Arkansas finalists in either the math or science category. They are now eligible to be considered for recognition by the national committee.

Mathematics Finalists:

- Laura Tinsley, Conway High School, Conway School District
- Morgan Trevathan, Annie Camp Junior High School, Jonesboro School District
- Theresa Watson, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

Science Finalists:

- Christopher Coker, Camden Fairview High School, Camden Fairview School District
- Melisha Griffin, North Little Rock Center of Excellence, North Little Rock School District
- Patrycja Krakowiak, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts
- Mary Maris, Central High School, Little Rock School District

“Congratulations to Arkansas’ math and science finalists,” Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Jacob Oliva said. “We celebrate your excellence in teaching and recognize your dedication to your students.”

Each year a national committee of scientists, mathematicians, and educators 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.

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 application cycle for 2024 will open in the fall. To learn more about the awards program, go to <https://www.paemst.nsf.gov>.

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