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Six Utah Teachers Named as Finalists for Presidential Teaching Award

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Office of Education, in conjunction with the National Science Foundation, is pleased to announce the six state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

The finalists in mathematics are:

- Sharon Christensen, Mountain Ridge Junior High School, Highland
- Renae Seegmiller, North Sevier High School, Salina
- Vivian Shell, Salt Lake Center for Science Education, Salt Lake City

The finalists in science are:

- Andrew Neilson, Logan High School, Logan
- Angela Stewart, Mueller Park Junior High School, Bountiful
- James Larson, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School, Salt Lake City

The six finalists were chosen from nominees from throughout the state and are now eligible to receive a state Presidential Award, the nation's highest honor for U.S. mathematics and science teachers in grades K through 12. As state finalists, they will be recognized by the Utah State Office of Education at a banquet ceremony during this school year.

Each year, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends up to 108 teachers to receive Presidential Awards—one math teacher and one science teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. territories, and the schools operated in the United States and overseas by the Department of Defense Education Agency. Teachers who are selected as Presidential Awardees receive a $10,000 award, a Presidential citation, and a trip to Washington, D.C. for a series of recognition events, information exchange programs, and an awards ceremony. The awards program is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House.

To learn more about the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, please see www.paemst.org.

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