March 11, 2022

For Immediate Release

Contact: Trish French, elementary mathematics, gifted and talented specialist
801-538-7617 ∙ trish.french@schools.utah.gov

Melissa Mendenhall, elementary science, STEM specialist
801-538-7547 ∙ melissa.mendenhall@schools.utah.gov

Utah Names Finalists for Nation’s Top Elementary Math, Science Teacher Awards

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education is pleased to announce the names of the Five 2022 Utah finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

**2022 Utah Elementary Mathematics Finalists**

- Quinn Braden, Meadow Elementary School, Alpine District
- Stacy Stoker, Red Cliffs Elementary School, Juab School District
- Cheri Weske, Diamond Ridge Elementary School, Granite District

**2022 Utah Elementary Science Finalists**

- Ashley Hare, Edison Elementary School, Salt Lake City School District
- Lanette (Stephens) Searle, Municipal Elementary School, Weber School District

PAEMST is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K–12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. Finalists serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of STEM education.

In the next step of the selection process, 2022 PAEMST finalists’ applications will be reviewed by a national selection committee. Then, The White House will announce the results of the national selection process. The timing of the announcement depends largely on The
White House schedule, but it is predicted to occur in summer/fall 2022. From these five finalists, two will be chosen to be the 2022 Utah PAEMST awardees. They will receive a certificate signed by the President of the United States, a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events, and a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

[www.schools.utah.gov](http://www.schools.utah.gov)