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For Immediate Release

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2020 Utah Teacher of the Year Finalists Named

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education today announced the five finalists for 2020 Utah Teacher of the Year. They are:

- Kelland Davis, an eighth grade mathematics teacher at North Davis Junior High School in the Davis School District.

- Xaviera Ma, a sixth grade dual language immersion teacher at Wasatch Elementary School in the Provo School District.

- Andrea Lynn Melnick, a kindergarten teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School in the Logan School District.

- Lauren Merkley, an English teacher at Cottonwood High School in the Granite School District.

- Rebecca Richardson, an English and ACT and college preparatory teacher at East High School in the Salt Lake City School District.
A panel with representatives from teachers, parents, charter schools, the Utah State Board of Education and 2019 Utah Teacher of the Year Kellie May selected the finalists from among the 25 district and charter school teachers of the year from throughout the state. The five were interviewed and a 2020 Utah Teacher of the Year and two runners up were selected but won’t be announced until September 5 when a banquet will be held honoring all district and charter teachers of the year.

The 2020 Utah Teacher of the Year will represent Utah in the National Teacher of the Year Program in Washington, D.C. and will succeed May, who is currently a student teacher specialist in the Salt Lake City School District, but formerly worked as an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) coordinator at West High School in Salt Lake City.

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