



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

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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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