



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

250 EAST 500 SOUTH P.O. BOX 144200 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-4200
www.schools.utah.gov

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Contacts: Joleigh Honey, Secondary Mathematics Specialist/STEM Coordinator
801-538-7794 · joleigh.honey@schools.utah.gov
Ricky Scott, Secondary Science Specialist
801-538-7808 · richard.scott@schools.utah.gov

Utah Names Finalists for Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education today announced the names of the five 2019 Utah finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. They are:

2019 Utah Secondary Mathematics Finalists

- Dawn Barson, Juab High School, Juab School District
- Natalie Darrington, Juab Junior High School, Juab School District
- Nikki Mendenhall, Salem Junior High School, Nebo School District

2019 Utah Secondary Science Finalists

- Stephanie “Skipper” Coates, Pleasant Grove Junior High School, Alpine School District
- David Morrill, Jordan High School, Canyons School District

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Established by Congress in 1983, the PAEMST program authorizes the President to bestow up to 108 awards each year. Awards are given to mathematics and science teachers from each of the 50 states and four U.S. jurisdictions. The award recognizes those teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning. Since the program's inception, more than 4,300 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science (including computer science) education. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The next step for the 2019 PAEMST finalists is that their applications will be reviewed by a national selection committee. 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 the summer/fall of 2020. From these five finalists, two will be chosen to be the 2019 Utah PAEMST awardees and 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 professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

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