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For Immediate Release

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## Utah's 2017 Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Announced

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education announced today the names of the four 2017 Utah finalists for the [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#). They are:

### 2017 Utah Secondary Mathematics Finalists

- Rachel Rolf, [Hillside Middle School](#), Salt Lake City School District
- Mike Spencer, [Juab High School](#), Juab School District

### 2017 Utah Secondary Science Finalists

- Deborah Morgan, [South Sevier High School](#), Sevier School District
- Meghan Zarnetske, [Treasure Mountain Junior High](#), Park City 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.

A national selection committee will review PAEMST finalists' applications. 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 2018. From these four finalists, two will be chosen to be the 2017 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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