



News Release

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Three Educators Chosen as Michigan's Finalists for 2008 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

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LANSING – Three Michigan mathematics and science educators have been chosen as state-level finalists for the 2008 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

"Excelling in college and today's economy requires strong math and science skills," said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "These teachers, and their outstanding colleagues, are helping ensure that every Michigan student graduates prepared for success in college and the workplace."

A national selection panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, educators, administrators, and past awardees reviews the applications of the state-level finalists and makes recommendations to the National Science Foundation, which in turn forwards them to the White House. The President of the United States will announce the 2008 awardees in spring 2009.

"These educators use innovative and interactive teaching methods that reach their students and engage them in learning," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. "All teachers can get students learning at high levels and meeting Michigan's rigorous standards by finding ways to reach every student."

Michigan's nominees for this 2008 national award include:

(more)

Science

Suzanne O'Brien Fox Elementary School Chippewa Valley Schools

Elizabeth Sutherland Paddock Elementary School Milan Area Schools

Mathematics

Jon Phillips Adams Elementary School Waterford School District

The Michigan Department of Education received nominations for 51 science and 37 mathematics teachers.

The PAEMST program, established in 1983 by the White House, is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. In even-numbered years, nominees are eligible if they are highly qualified teachers; work full-time in public or private schools; and have at least five years of grade K-6 mathematics or science teaching experience prior to the application. Secondary school mathematics and science teachers are chosen in odd-numbered years.

Recognition for Presidential Awardees includes a special citation signed by the President; a \$10,000 honorarium from the National Science Foundation and gifts from a broad range of donors; and a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend special recognition events and meet with leaders in government and education, and attend professional development programs.

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