2019 - 2020







OVERVIEW

In 1952, Michigan was among the first states to create a coordinated teacher recognition program. Now, more than a half century later, the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) program continues to recognize educators who have shown dedication to the profession, as evidenced by their commitment to their students and track record of leadership to their colleagues – both in their schools and throughout the state. More information about the Regional Teacher of the Year and Michigan Teacher of the Year programs and the Teacher Leadership Advisory Council, can be found below.

Regional Teacher of the Year

The selection process begins during the fall of each year with a statewide call for nominations. Nominees who meet the eligibility requirements are then invited to formally apply for the award through a multi-level competitive process. One applicant from each of MDE's 10 designated regions (see page 2) is then selected by a panel of reviewers to be honored as a Regional Teacher of the Year (RTOY).

Michigan Teacher of the Year

Once announced, each of the RTOYs participate in an in-person interview with a panel of judges to vie for the Michigan Teacher of the Year (MTOY) honors. The panel scores each of the candidates and determines the year's winner. The MTOY serves as an advocate and spokesperson for Michigan's more than 100,000 teachers at both the state and national level and is also Michigan's candidate for the prestigious National Teacher of the Year award.

Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council

Together, the 10 RTOYs (inclusive of the MTOY) form the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MTLAC). The group's mission is to share issues of importance to educators and students with MDE, while also providing needed input on proposed department policies and initiatives. During their year of service, MTLAC members contribute feedback to MDE through monthly virtual meetings and quarterly face-to-face meetings, sharing best practices and concerns from educators throughout their respective regions with MDE staff.





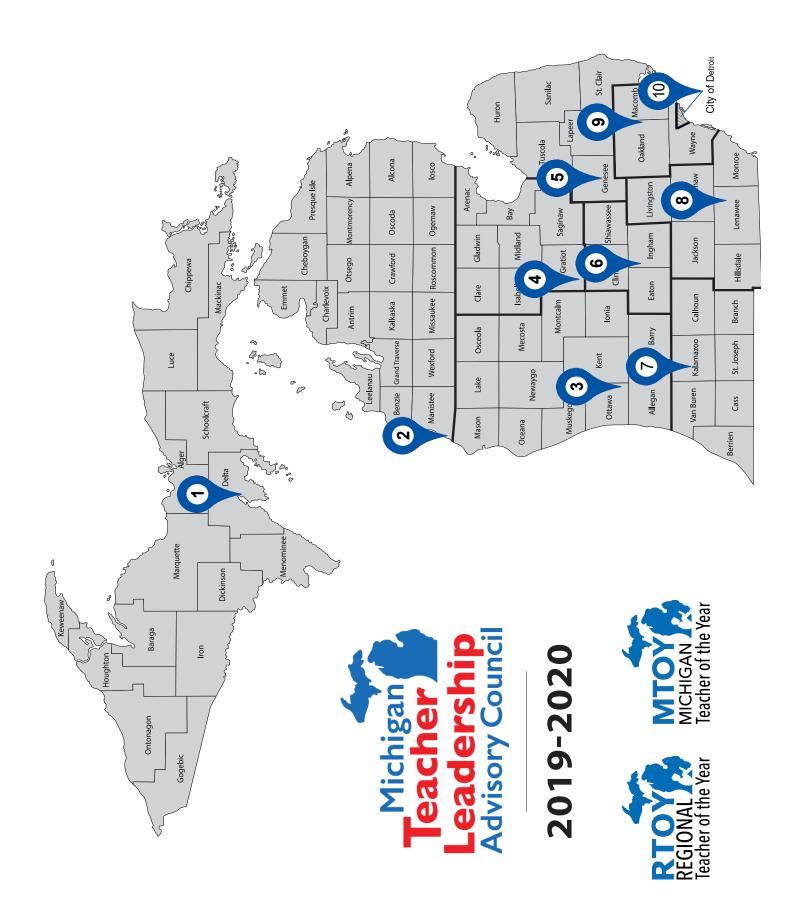


To learn more about the RTOY, MTOY and MTLAC, as well as MDE's other educator recognition programs, please visit: bit.ly/MDE_Recognition or contact Jennifer Robel at robelj@michigan.gov.



Program expenses for the Michigan Teacher of the Year and Regional Teacher of the Year programs, as well as the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council are covered through a generous partnership with Meemic.

MEET THE TEACHERS





GUSTAFSON REGION 1 RACHAL

SPECIAL EDUCATION **Rapid River Schools** [Rapid River]



REGION 6 TRICIA ZEMAN

Sycamore Elementary 3RD GRADE [Holt]



CLEMONS AMANDA **REGION 2**

Manistee Middle/High School ENGLISH/AP PSYCHOLOGY [Manistee]





Prairie Ridge Elementary & Indian Prairie Elementary [Kalamazoo]

Tecumseh High School

[Tecumseh]

MUSSELMAN HEALTH/LEADERSHIP

KRISTALYN

REGION 8

Bauer Elementary [Hudsonville] **REGION 3** FARRELI **1ST GRADE** KATIE



REGION 4 WINSOR JEREMY SCIENCE

Fulton Middle/High School [Middleton]







MTON REGION 9 MICHIGAN Teacher of the Year

LOUGHEED

Davison Elementary Middle School Stoney Creek High School

[Rochester Hills]

[Detroit]

PIZZO ENGLISH

REGION 10 MICHELE

RACHAL GUSTAFSON

Region 1 Teacher of the Year

SPECIAL EDUCATION • RAPID RIVER SCHOOLS

BIO

Rachal Gustafson is a 22-year teaching veteran. She is currently an elementary and middle school Special Education teacher at Rapid River Schools, where she has worked for the past 6 years. Rachal's teaching experience also includes her tenure at Bark River-Harris Schools as a Special Education teacher, 3rd grade teacher, 5th grade teacher and Title I Interventionist.

Rachal is currently the co-president of the Rapid River Education Association and a member of the group's negotiating team and scholarship committee. Her other leadership positions include serving as a Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA) ambassador and as leader of Delta-Schoolcraft ISD's Student Services Team. Rachal is also Rapid River's freshman class advisor and chair of the senior class all-night graduation party. In May 2018, Rachal was a recipient of the *Outstanding Person in Education* award, sponsored by the Michigan Education Association (MEA) and MESSA.

REGION 1



Region 1 covers the entirety of the Upper Peninsula, including all schools in the counties of: Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon and Schoolcraft.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Education Central Michigan University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Elementary Education (K-5 all subjects, K-8 self-contained) Cognitive Impairment (K-12) Language Arts (K-8)

CONTACT

rgustafson@rapidriver.k12.mi.us **Y**@rachalgus906

AMANDA CLEMONS

Region 2 Teacher of the Year

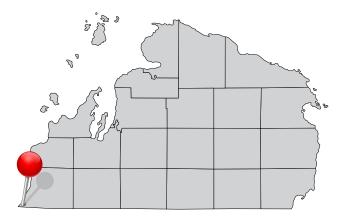
ENGLISH/AP PSYCH · MANISTEE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

BIO

Amanda Clemons is in her 14th year of teaching. For the past nine years, she has taught Advanced Placement Psychology and 11th grade American Literature at Manistee Middle/High School. Amanda previously taught English Language Arts in grades 7-12 and provided Special Education services for five years at CASMAN Alternative Academy, also in Manistee.

Outside of the classroom, Amanda serves as her school's National Honor Society advisor, English department chair, secondary technology coach, secondary reading apprenticeship coach and as a member of the district's Professional Leadership Team – helping develop Manistee's mentor teacher program to benefit new hires. As an Apple Education Trainer, Amanda has worked to help her colleagues incorporate technology and 21stCentury Learning into the classroom.

REGION 2



Region 2 includes all schools in Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford counties.





2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts – Education Grand Valley State University

Special Education Endorsement Ferris State University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Secondary Education English (6-12) Psychology (6-12) Learning Disabilities (K-12)

CONTACT

aclemons@manistee.org

KATIE FARRELL

Region 3 Teacher of the Year

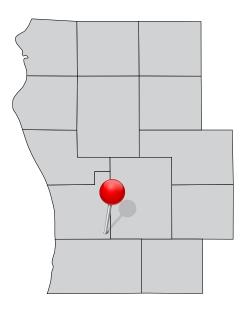
1ST GRADE • BAUER ELEMENTARY

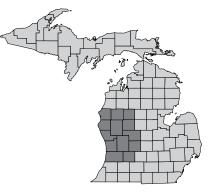
BIO

Katie Farrell has been a 1st grade teacher at Bauer Elementary in the Hudsonville Public School District for the past 14 years. She is very passionate about literacy and developing ways to support the growing readers within her school and district. Katie had the opportunity to be trained in Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) and her classroom has hosted many teachers from other districts hoping to learn best practices in literacy instruction.

While working in Hudsonville, Katie has also served as a mentor for numerous colleagues, students, teachers and teacher assistants. Katie is also the English Language Arts committee facilitator and a member of the School Improvement Team. She also spent several years serving as the district's grade level chair and participated in the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Instructional Rounds Protocol as part of a district team on three different occasions. Katie was recently honored by a former student as an inspirational teacher at the Hudsonville Education Foundation's Eagles of Excellence Gala.

REGION 3





Region 3 includes all schools in Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Elementary Ed. Western Michigan University

Master of Arts – Literacy Studies Western Michigan University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Elementary Education (K-5 all subjects, K-8 self-contained)

Early Childhood Education (PK-K)

EBLI Certified Instructor

CONTACT

kfarrell@hpseagles.net

JEREMY WINSOR

Region 4 Teacher of the Year

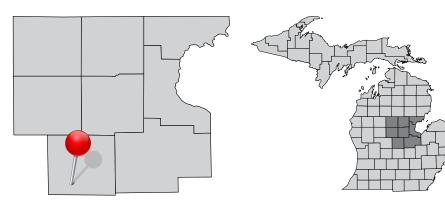
SCIENCE · FULTON MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

BIO

Jeremy Winsor is a 14-year teaching veteran, with the last 10 years in the classroom at Fulton Schools. As a middle school and high school teacher, Jeremy teaches a variety of science-related subjects, including middle school Science, Earth Science, Biology, Forensic Science, Anatomy & Physiology, Microbiology and Environmental Science. He previously taught at Ionia High School and Bear Lake Schools. He's also coached wrestling, football and track & field.

Jeremy currently serves as Science department chair; sits on three district-wide committees: scheduling, improvement and safety; and has led the charge for Modeling Instruction integration. Along with his many roles at school, Jeremy is a co-director for the Beaver Island Institute through Central Michigan University's Chippewa River Writing Project where he assists educators in building science literacy and fostering inquiry in the science classroom. He is also an active member of the Department of Natural Resources' Salmon in the Classroom program, leading workshops for the last 10 years.

REGION 4



Region 4 includes all schools in Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw counties.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Education Central Michigan University Master of Arts – Ed. Leadership Cornerstone University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Secondary Education Earth/Space Science (6-12) Biology (6-12)

School Administrator Elementary & Secondary (K-12)

CONTACT

winsor.jeremy@gmail.com

JESSYCA MATHEWS

Region 5 Teacher of the Year

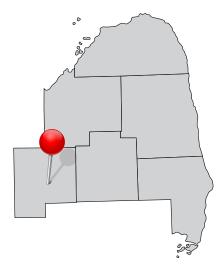
ENGLISH · CARMAN-AINSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL

BIO

Jessyca Mathews has spent her entire 19-year teaching career at her alma mater – Flint's Carman-Ainsworth High School (CAHS) – where her influence can be seen both inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to teaching English and Journalism courses, Jessyca is a board member of several charitable organizations within the school community, a club sponsor and head coach of both the CAHS girl's soccer program and the University of Michigan-Flint's club team. Jessyca is a playwright, blogger and published author, having written for *Nia Magazine* and *The Mighty*, as well as two books of her own. She is also a fellow of the National Writing Project through her work on the Leadership Council of the Red Cedar Writing Project at Michigan State University.

In 2018, Jessyca was named Secondary English Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Council of Teachers of English; Michigan's Teacher of Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English; and Michigan's Sanford Teacher Award winner as one of the country's most inspirational teachers. She was also a 2017 finalist for the National Education Association's Social Justice Activist of the Year award.

REGION 5





Region 5 includes all schools in Huron, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts – English University of Michigan-Flint Master in the Art of Teaching Marygrove College

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Secondary Education English (6-12) History (6-12)

CONTACT

authorjessycamathews@gmail.com

TRICIA ZEMAN

Region 6 Teacher of the Year

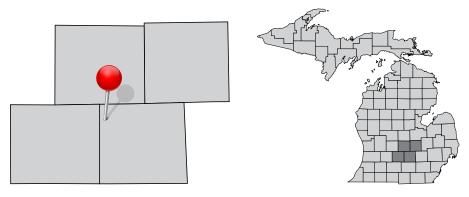
3RD GRADE • SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY

BIO

Tricia Zeman has been an educator for 17 years. She began her tenure in Holt Public Schools as a Literacy Curriculum Coach and has also taught 3rd grade at three buildings in the district – most recently Sycamore Elementary. Tricia also taught Kindergarten, 2nd grade and 3rd grade in Corunna.

Tricia is a curriculum leader, planning for and leading professional development with all grade-level teachers across the district. Her service on several leadership teams and committees has included developing and revising curriculum, as well as designing district-wide assessments. Tricia is a sought-after mentor teacher, both throughout the district and for the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Education. She has provided support to fellow teachers through training, modeling and instructional coaching. Tricia has also served as a panelist providing feedback for the future of MSU's educator preparation program.

REGION 6



Region 6 includes all schools in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Shiawassee counties.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Child Development Michigan State University

Bachelor of Arts – Elementary Education Michigan State University

Master of Science – Education (Reading and Literacy Specialization) Walden University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Elementary Education (K-5 all subjects, K-8 self-contained) Early Childhood Education (PK-K)

CONTACT

DOUGLAS DUNCAN

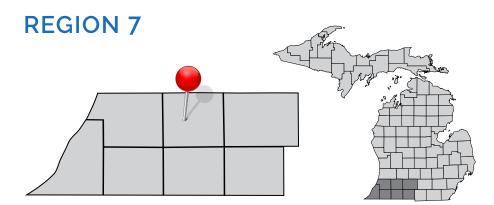
Region 7 Teacher of the Year

ART · PRAIRIE RIDGE & INDIAN PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

BIO

Douglas Duncan has taught art to students in the Kalamazoo Public School District for 18 years, where he is currently working with elementary students at Prairie Ridge and Indian Prairie. While teaching is a second career for Douglas, who was a successful graphic artist for 15 years before becoming an educator, it is his calling. A skilled artist turned Master Teacher, Douglas earned National Board Certification in 2009.

Douglas is trained in both Visual Thinking Strategies and Aesthetic Arts Education, which provides many opportunities for his students to meet with and experience the work of professional artists. He has also served as a mentor to many in art education, presenting at multiple conferences, and coaching 16 Western Michigan University intern teachers and more than 30 pre-intern teachers. Douglas also coordinates an annual Empty Bowls event to help raise funds and awareness about food scarcity in his school and community.



Region 7 includes all schools in Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts – Art Adrian College

Master in Education Aquinas College

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Elementary Education (K-5 all subjects, K-8 self-contained)

Art Education (K-12) National Board Certification

CONTACT

duncanda@kalamazoopublicschools.net

🕑 @dduncanart

KRISTALYN MUSSELMAN

Region 8 Teacher of the Year

HEALTH/LEADERSHIP · TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL

BIO

Kristalyn Musselman is a 13-year veteran educator at Tecumseh Public Schools, where she currently teaches high school Health and Leadership. She began her teaching career in Special Education, working specifically with students with learning disabilities.

Kristalyn is passionate about health education, as well as equity and inclusion, and is always looking for ways to bring resources and opportunities to all students. Along with teaching, she is an advisor for the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club, the Gay Straight Alliance, the Peer-to-Peer Support program and the Link Crew. Kristalyn also serves as the district's Sex Education supervisor, co-chair of the Sex Education Advisory Board and is a goal leader on the district's Strategic Design Committee. She was co-chair of the district's five-year Sexual Health Initiative for Transformation (SHIFT), leading the project to increase acceptance of LGBTQ students. She has also planned and implemented a range of enrichment activities to promote values and development for students with Autism. Kristalyn is an active member of the Tecumseh Coalition for Youth, a local substance-abuse prevention group, and serves on the Information and Education Committee for the Lenawee County Health Department.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Health Ed. Western Kentucky University

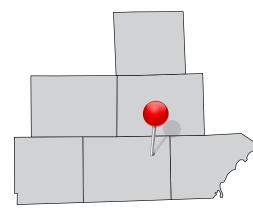
Master of Arts – Special Education Eastern Michigan University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Secondary Education Health (K-12) Learning Disabilities (K-12)

CONTACT

REGION 8





Region 8 includes all schools in Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw counties.

CARA LOUGHEED

Region 9 and Michigan Teacher of the Year

ENGLISH/HISTORY · STONEY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

BIO

Cara Lougheed is the 2019-2020 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Cara has taught English Language Arts and History in Rochester Community Schools for 21 years. She began her teaching career at Rochester High School



in 1998 and was a founding staff member of Stoney Creek High School when it opened in the fall of 2001. Over the years, Cara has taught multiple levels of English, from remediation to Advanced Placement courses, as well as U.S. and World History.

Cara has also served as a Social Studies teacher leader, a building activities director, building union representative and a National Education Association delegate. She has worked collaboratively with colleagues and administrators to write curriculum, create an attendance incentive program for students and contribute to various projects designed to improve school culture. Cara has also trained six student teachers from four different universities over the last decade. She is currently the student intern and mentor liaison to Oakland University (OU), and is working collaboratively with the Michigan Program Network (MiPN) and TeachingWorks to improve and broaden teacher education. In addition, Cara is an advisory member of OU's Vision 20/20 committee, which seeks the input of classroom teachers in making improvements to teacher education.

REGION 9



Region 9 includes all schools in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, but not within the City of Detroit.



2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science – Secondary Education Western Michigan University

Master of Arts – Teaching & Learning Nova Southeastern University

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Secondary Education English (6-12) History (6-12)

CONTACT

clougheed@rochester.k12.mi.us

y @wonderteach

MICHELE PIZZO

Region 10 Teacher of the Year

ENGLISH · DAVISON ELEMENTARY-MIDDLE SCHOOL

BIO

Michele Pizzo is a 24-year teaching veteran, the majority of which have been spent at Detroit's Davison Elementary-Middle School. She taught 4th grade at Davison for 20 years and is currently the 7th grade English Language Arts teacher. She has also served as both a grade level chair and Data Specialist, and has collaborated with colleagues to write the school improvement plan. In addition, Michele is the district and school-wide spelling bee coordinator, preparing champions to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

An ardent community advocate, Michele is passionate about bridging the school-home gap and its positive impact on student success. She is currently a lead coordinating teacher for the Detroit Public Schools Community District's Parent Teacher Home Visit Protect. The innovative program is part of a \$3 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and aims to build a better connection with families. Michele has volunteered her afternoons and weekends over the past two years to conduct regular home visits. She turned the experience into a leadership opportunity, training fellow teachers in a protocol for visiting their students' homes.



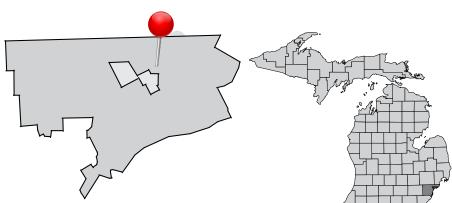
2019-2020



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts – Elementary Ed. Wayne State University Master in the Art of Teaching Marygrove College

REGION 10



Region 10 includes all schools within the City of Detroit.

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

Elementary Education (K-5 all subjects, K-8 self-contained) English (6-8)

CONTACT

michele.pizzo@detroitk12.org



Office of Educator Excellence



@MIEDUCATOR #proudMleducator #PME