



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Seeking Nominations for the 2020 Presidential Awards in Math and Science

Michigan is looking for outstanding elementary science educators for the 2019-20 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Educators who primarily teach STEM-related courses in kindergarten through 6th grade are eligible to be nominated and apply for the PAEMST awards this year. To nominate someone or to begin an application, please visit the program website: www.paemst.org. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2020, while the deadline for applications is May 1, 2020.

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1983, more than 4,800 math and science teachers have been honored as presidential awardees. Awardees receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation and a paid trip to Washington, D.C. to attend recognition events and professional development sessions, among other benefits.

Each year, states select up to three finalists in both the mathematics and science disciplines, with an annual alternating between teachers in grades K-6 and 7-12. The 2020 state finalists for Michigan will be selected in spring 2020 by a state selection committee comprised of mathematics and science content experts.

Four Michigan teachers were recently honored as PAEMST recipients:

2017 Awardees:

Linda Bensyl, Wayland Union High School, 7-12 Mathematics
Megan Bartley, Benzie Central High School, 7-12 Science

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2018 Awardees:

Ellen McDonald, Walled Lake Elementary School, K-6 Mathematics
Katherine Stevenson, Fisher Elementary School, K-6 Science

During the 2019 program year, the following teachers were named as state finalists:

Theodore Emch, Pioneer High School, 7-12 Mathematics
Laurie Hochrein, Skyline High School, 7-12 Mathematics
Angela Principato, South Lake High School, 7-12 Mathematics
Christopher Bolhuis, Hudsonville Public Schools, 7-12 Science
Holly Hereau, Lee M. Thurston High School, 7-12 Science
Scott Milam, Plymouth High School, 7-12 Science

For more information about the awards, including exact eligibility requirements, please visit <https://www.paemst.org/about/view> or email Josh Roesner, Michigan program coordinator, at roesnerj1@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance