

Governor Murphy and NJDOE Announce 2018-19 County Teachers of the Year

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognized 21 teachers as the 2018-19 County Teachers of the Year in an awards ceremony at Jackson Memorial High School, Jackson, NJ.

“I am honored to recognize the 2018-2019 County Teachers of the Year,” **said Governor Phil Murphy**. “These 21 educators exemplify the outstanding level of talent and commitment that exists in New Jersey’s public schools. Their hard work and dedication is a critical part of making our state’s public education system one of the best in the country and creating a life-long love of learning for New Jersey’s students.”

“Our greatest resources in public education are our educators,” **said Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet**. “Here in New Jersey, we are blessed to have many brilliant educators, and these 21 who are being recognized as County Teachers of the Year are emblematic of the quality of instruction that we see throughout the Garden State.”

Individual schools are encouraged to identify educators for the Governor’s Educator of the Year Program to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of their outstanding teachers. Teachers recognized as part of this program become eligible to compete for County Teachers of the Year. Panels representing a cross-section of administrators, teachers, parents and members of county education associations select each County Teacher of the Year.

The County Teachers of the Year will network with educators throughout the state and serve as ambassadors for New Jersey’s public schools. Additional information can be found on the [Governor’s Educator of the Year webpage](#).

A panel of educators then will select the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year based on written applications, video submissions and interviews with the County Teachers of the Year. The State Teacher of the Year is expected to be announced at the State Board of Education’s October meeting, and will go on to represent New Jersey in competing for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

New Jersey’s 2018-19 County Teachers of the Year are as follows:

2018-19 County Teachers of the Year						
County	First Name	Last Name	Grade Level	Subject Area	School	School District
Atlantic	Mark	Deebold	9th-12th	ESL	Atlantic City High School	Atlantic City School District
Bergen	Christine	Esola	Kindergarten	Special Education	The Valley Program	Northern Valley Reg. H.S. District
Burlington	Melissa	Antinoff	3rd	Elementary	Ashbrook Elementary School	Lumberton School District
Camden	Jennifer	Mazzochi	8th	Special Education	Charles W. Lewis Middle School	Gloucester Township School District
Cape May	Carrie	Merritt	1st	Elementary	Ocean City Primary School	Ocean City School District
Cumberland	Vicki	Yeager	10th-12th	Chemistry	Vineland High School	Vineland School District
Essex	Smita	Dharsi	2nd	Elementary	Edgemont Montessori School	Montclair School District
Gloucester	Vanessa	Paccione	3rd-5th	Art	General Charles G. Harker School	Swedesboro-Woolwich School District
Hudson	Patricia	Smeyers	5th	Elementary	Clarendon Elementary School	Secaucus School District
Hunterdon	Amy	Mullay	9th-12th	Latin	North Hunterdon High	North Hunterdon-Voorhees

Mercer	Nicholas	Johnson	10th-12th	Science	School Central High School	Reg. N.S. District Hopewell Valley Regional School District
Middlesex	Matthew	Wechter	3rd	Elementary	Robert N. Wilentz Elementary School	Perth Amboy School District
Monmouth	Todd	Curtis	10th-12th	Social Studies	Howell High School	Freehold Regional High School District
Morris	Jennifer	Skomial	9th-12th	CTE Child Development	Morris County School of Technology	Morris County Vocational School District
Ocean	William	Smith	7th-8th	Social Studies	Southern Regional Middle School	Southern Regional School District
Passaic	Robert	Edgar	9th-12th	English	Pompton Lakes High School	Pompton Lakes School District
Salem	Rosemary	Poliski	6th-8th	Special Education	Quinton Twp. Elementary School	Quinton Township School District
Somerset	Viktoria	Wargo	Kindergarten	Special Education	Triangle Elementary School	Hillsborough School District
Sussex	Kate	Del Vecchio	5th-8th	Art	Halsted Middle School	Newton School District
Union	Barbara	Brady	9th-12th	Health & Physical Education	Linden High School	Linden School District
Warren	Selena	Donaldson	Kindergarten	Elementary	Mansfield Twp. Elementary School	Mansfield Township School District