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USB E Announces 2024 Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah State Board of Education is pleased to announce the names of the five 2024 Utah finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). PAEMST is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government for K–12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science teaching. Finalists serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in improving STEM education.

The 2024 Utah elementary mathematics finalists are:

- Benjamin Larson of Pony Express Middle School in Alpine School District
- Nicole Rudes of Albion Middle School in Canyons School District

The 2024 Utah elementary science finalists are:

- Andee Felker of Shadow Valley Elementary in Ogden School District
- Heidi Ceballos of West Kearns Elementary in Granite School District

- Mary Oland-Wong of Emerson Elementary in Salt Lake City School District

“We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our educators. They have gone above and beyond and deserve to be recognized at a national level for their dedication to Utah students,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson.

In the next step of the selection process, the 2024 PAEMST finalists’ applications will be reviewed by a national selection committee, after which 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 the results are expected to be announced in the summer or fall of 2025. From these five finalists, two will be chosen to be the 2024 Utah PAEMST awardees. They 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 a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

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