

State to name 2020 Delaware Teacher of the Year

Twenty of the state's top teachers will be honored at a banquet next month, when one of them will be named Delaware's 2020 Teacher of the Year.

The winner will be announced at the annual award dinner on **Tuesday, Oct. 15** at the Dover Downs Hotel and Casino in Dover. Funding for the award ceremony is made in part by a grant from Voya Financial. The program begins at 6 p.m. with the announcement coming at the end of the night.

The candidates were nominated by their districts or the charter network during the 2019 calendar year because of their superior ability to inspire students with a love of learning, exemplary demonstration of professional traits and strong sense of dedication and devotion to teaching.

Each nominee submitted a detailed online application exemplifying his or her teaching philosophy. Five Delaware Department of Education staff members independently evaluate each application. A former state Teacher of the Year and a member of the department staff also visit each candidate's classroom to observe his or her teaching. Taking into consideration the ratings from the application review and classroom observation as well as a recorded presentation by the nominees, another independent panel of non-department judges then selects the one teacher who will serve as the 2020 Delaware Teacher of the Year.

The teacher chosen to become the State Teacher of the Year will become Delaware's nominee in the national program, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the Voya Foundation.

By action of the General Assembly, the Delaware Teacher of the

Year will receive a \$5,000 grant to use for the educational benefit of his or her students, as well as a personal grant of \$3,000. Additionally, all nominees will receive a \$2,000 grant from the state.

The 2020 District/Charter Teachers of the Year are:

District/Charters: Name, School, Content area

Appoquinimink: Stephen Landry, Appoquinimink High, mathematics

Brandywine: Lauren Conrad, Concord High, music (vocal)

Caesar Rodney: Sabra Collins, Caesar Rodney High, physical education

Cape Henlopen: Brennan Clarke, Shields Elementary, English as a second language

Capital: Erica N. Richard, East Dover Elementary, K-4 mathematics specialist

Charters: Kayla Sweet, Kuumba Academy, 6th grade mathematics

Christina: Lindsey Muldoon, Shue Medill Middle, 8th grade English language arts

Colonial: Rebecca Louise Vitelli, Colonial Early Education Program, Prekindergarten

Delmar: Donna Huston, Delmar High, English language arts

Indian River: Arthur Henry, Millsboro Middle, music (band)

Lake Forest: Christina Hughes-Gallo, Lake Forest High, social studies

Laurel: Donna Sava, Laurel Elementary, 1st grade

Milford: Jaime Hill, Morris Early Childhood Center, kindergarten

NCCVT: Anthony Webb, Delcastle High, mathematics

POLYTECH: Nick Post, POLYTECH High, electrical trades technology

Red Clay Consolidated: Richard F. Weaver III, AI duPont High, music (band)

Seaford: Laura Burke, Central Elementary, 3rd grade

Smyrna: Denise Balcerak, Sunnyside Elementary, kindergarten

Sussex Tech: Dontez Collins, Sussex Tech High, mathematics

Woodbridge: Stephanie Vodvarka, Phillis Wheatley Elementary,

4th grade

Photos of the teachers are available online [here](#).

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