



Presidential Awards for Excellence
in Mathematics and Science Teaching

PAEMST Celebrates 35 Years of Excellent Teaching

Established by Congress in 1983

Wyoming's First Presidential Awardees

Bernie Schnorenberg

1983 - Math

Sundance High School

Retired from Crook CSD

“Every student deserves the respect of being asked to do his or her best! They should never be belittled by assuming they are incapable of success in any of their classes!?”



Elizabeth Shelton

1983 - Science

Big Horn High School

Sheridan CSD#1



Judy Adams

1984 - Math

Laramie JHS

Albany County School District

Elizabeth Horsch

1984 - Science

Natrona County School District #1

Retired



Ed Weber

1985

Math

Twin Spruce JHS

Campbell CSD

Michael Pearson

1985

Science

Albany County

School District



Mary Moler

1986 - Math

Retired - Kelly Walsh High
School

Natrona CSD#1

“You chose the noble profession of teaching. Keep alive and active that passion as you do your life’s work. Being a Presidential Awardee emboldened me to take advantage of as many opportunities as possible to learn, grow, and become a better teacher.”

Dana Van Burgh

1986 - Science

Natrona County School
District #1



1987 & 1988

Princess Killbrew

1987 - Math

Wyoming Indian Middle School
Fremont CSD#1
Ethete, WY

Carol Born

1988 - Math

Lander Valley High School
Fremont CSD#1

Jennifer Grooms

1987 - Science

Kelly Walsh High School
Natrona CSD#1

Dave Masterson

1988 - Science

Jackson Hole High School
Teton CSD



1989

Nancy Merrill

1989 - Math

Big Horn High School
Sheridan CSD#1

Linda Fleming

1989 - Science

Little Snake River Valley Carbon CSD #1
Baggs, WY
Retired 2002



Jimmy Dee Rhodes

1990 - Math

Wheatland High School
Platte CSD#1

Judith Vandell

1990 - Science

McCormick Junior High -
Laramie CSD #1

Jennie Robison

1990 - Math

Tongue River Elementary
Sheridan CSD#2

Doris Waddell

1990 - Science

Crest Hill Elementary
Natrona CSD#1



Carol F. Jahn

1991 - Math

Campbell County High School
Gillette, WY

Pete Vasek

1991 - Science

Laramie High School
Albany CSD

Glenda Reynolds

1991 - Math

Lebhart Elementary
Laramie CSD#1

“Put your best effort into writing
your application and keep trying if
at first you don't succeed.”

Vicki Anne Foster

1991 - Science

Natrona County School District #1



Ann Hines

1992 - Math

Crest Hill Elementary
Natrona CSD#1

Richard Lechner

1992 - Math

Greybull Middle School
Big Horn SD#3

Janet Gerking

1992 - Science

Laramie High School – Albany CSD

Jeanne Spawn

1992 - Science

Park Elementary – Natrona CSD#1

“The unequivocal joy of teaching is experiencing the excitement of an aha moment in the eyes of a child. In education we must continually strive to make that "aha" moment ever present!”



Linda Hileman

1993 - Math

Saratoga Elementary

Carbon CSD#2

Gail Terry

1993 - Math

Sunset Elementary

Park CSD#6

Patti Kimble

1993 - Science

Star Lance Center

Natrona CSD#1



Jan Truchot
1994 – Math

Sundance Elementary
Retired from Crook CSD



“Mathematics is a journey that begins with counting and whose reach extends beyond the stars. During my 32 years teaching, I loved guiding and supporting my students as they made concepts their own and seeing the pride they felt when it all made sense. Earning the Presidential Award enabled me to empower other teachers to discover our inner mathematicians and awaken that mathematician in our students so that they could indeed reach for the stars.”

Anna Fugere

1994 - Math

Glenrock Middle School
Converse CSD#2

John Kunkel

1994 - Science

Greybull Elementary
Big Horn SD#3

John “Jeb” Schenck

1994 - Science

Thermopolis HS – Hot Springs CSD#1



Barbara Maguire

1995 - Math

Park Elementary
Natrona CSD#1

Emily King

1995 - Science

Crest Hill Elementary – Natrona
CSD#1

David Petersen

1995 - Math

Lander Valley HS - Fremont CSD#1

John Howarth

1995 - Science

Jackson Hole HS – Teton CSD



Cynthia Moravek

1996 - Math

Shoshoni High School
Fremont CSD#24
Retired



“Life is a puzzle. Mathematics is a tool that helps us see how to fit the pieces together. Some students have too many pieces missing to see the final picture in their lives. My goal is to give students as many of those pieces as possible so they can have the most successful life possible.”

Karen Sue McCutcheon

1996 - Math

Westwood Elementary
Natrona CSD#1

Bryan Aivazian

1996 - Science

Natrona CSD#1
Retired, 2018

Edward Walker

1996 - Science

Kemmerer MS – Lincoln CSD#1



Bradley Kohl
1997 – Math

Natrona CSD#1

Breck School
Golden Valley, MN

*“Children do not bring
deficits to be filled;
they bring assets to be cultivated.”*



Sharon Cave
1997 - Science

Southridge Elementary
Natrona CSD#1

Pia Hansen-Powell

1997 - Math

Deming Elementary
Laramie CSD#1

Director of Professional
Development for the
Math Learning Center.
Publisher of
Bridges in Math K-5.



Deborah Vosler

1997 - Science

Cheyenne East HS – Laramie CSD#1

Sara Julleen Binder

1998 - Math

Jefferson Elementary
Fremont CSD#25

Kay Katchuk

1998 - Math

Sweetwater County School District #2

Kathy Watson

1998 - Science

Chugwater Jr/Sr HS – Platte CSD#1
Retired from Platte CSD#2, 2018

Anne Marken

1998 - Science

Crest Hill Elementary - Natrona CSD#1

“The opportunities I have enjoyed in the education field have been incredible and life changing. With each experience I have gained wisdom, insight and a renewed sense of the human spirit.”



Mary Krisko

1999 - Science

Worland MS - Washakie CSD#1
Retired to Charolette, NC

Tammy Needham

1999 - Math

Sundance Elementary – Crook CSD

Anna Denardi

1999 - Math

Guernsey-Sunrise Jr/Sr High School
Platte CD#2

Gail Moravek

1999 - Science

Fremont CSD#24

Shoshoni, WY

Retired



Susan Ross

2000 - Math

Tongue River Elementary
Sheridan CSD#1

Deb Hofmeier

2000 - Science

Tongue River - Sheridan CSD#1



Sharla Dowding

2000 - Science

Newcastle HS - Weston CSD#1
WDE Science Consultant



“Enjoy the experience!”

2001 & 2002

Richard Pieper
2001 - Math

Cokeville High School
Lincoln CSD#2

Leona Wunnenberg
2002 - Science

Jackson Hole MS
Teton CSD

***Robert “Marty”
Higginbotham***
2001 - Science

West Elementary – Lander
Fremont CSD#1

Carolyn Jacobs
2002 - Science

Dean Morgan JHS
Natrona CSD#1



Teresa Sticklin

2003 - Math

Kelly Walsh HS

Natrona CSD#1



Wendy Smith

2003 - Science

Powell HS – Park CSD#1

“Be yourself and enjoy the ride, it is a wonderful and meaningful experience that you don’t want to forget!”



Michele Costello
2004 - Math

Pinedale Middle School
Sublette CSD#1



Polly BeeBout
2004 - Science

Verda James Elementary
Natrona CSD#1



Shane Costello
2005 - Math

Pinedale High School
Sublette CSD#1



Millicent Stender
2005 – Science

Big Horn High School
Sheridan CSD#1



“Wow, what an honor to be recognized for one of the, if not THE most prestigious award a science teacher could receive. I am humbled to have been selected for The Presidential Award and, to be honest, surprised. There are so many amazing teachers making big differences each and every day in the lives of students. For every awardee there are dozens (more than) who just didn't apply that should have. I feel that teaching is one of THE BEST way to make a difference in this world.”

Catherine McAtee

2006 - Math

Elk Mountain Elementary
Carbon CSD#2



Elizabeth Harris

2006 - Science

Verda James Elementary
Natrona CSD#1



Kenneth Petersen
2007 - Math

Mountain View HS
Uinta CSD#4



Brant Jungck
2007 - Science

Frontier Middle School
Natrona CSD#1



Amy Radden

2008 - Math

Evansville Elementary

Natrona CSD#1



“To be honored as a Presidential Award winner has been a surreal and incredible experience. My remarkable students are the ultimate reason for the nomination and acceptance of this prestigious honor. Everything I do, I do because of these children. I've created a safe and orderly classroom community where students' opinions, questions, and explorations are valued as I empower the whole child. The award may have been awarded to me, but it is my students who made it possible.”

Susan Carlson

2009 - Math

Kelly Walsh HS
Natrona CSD#1



“The Presidential Award means being selected as a member of an elite group of educators who share a commitment to high-level math and science teaching. This award is a reflection on all of the tremendous colleagues I’ve worked with who have shared their expertise and common passion for teaching with me. Most importantly, the Presidential Award honors all of the students who have looked at me expectantly on their first day of class and have inspired me to strive for excellence for their benefit.”

Mark Haskins

2009 - Science

Lander Valley High School
Retired, Fremont CSD#1

“Through the public educational system in America, ordinary people like you and I can achieve our extraordinary dreams.”



LeAnn Uhling

2010 – Math

Saratoga, WY
Carbon CSD#2
Retired 2018



“It is an incredible honor to be considered for the Presidential Award, the highest recognition a mathematics or science teacher may receive, and one I share with my kindergartners. I am proud of my students’ willingness to take risks, problem solve, and share their thinking with one another. I am most excited that mathematicians and scholars recognize the importance of early childhood mathematics. Early counting serves as the foundation for the development of more advanced skills in coming years.”

Rebecca Qualm

2010 - Science

Clear Creek Elementary, Buffalo
Johnson CSD#1



“This award recognizes the efforts of teachers who endeavor to create learning opportunities that encourage students to be lifelong learners. I strive to inspire this love of learning and encourage my students to be critical thinkers through inquiry and exploration. They willingly accept their role as scientists as they enter my classroom ready for a new challenge. Their enthusiasm motivates me to seek out and implement best practices in my instruction with the goal of student success.”



Jayne Wingate**2011 - Math**

Cheyenne South HS

Laramie CSD #1



“To prepare students for the challenges of the future, we must change the education mindsets of the present. Along with high expectations, we must ensure every student has equal access and adequate support to be successful in mathematics.

The Presidential Award is a reminder and a validation of the importance of the work highly effective teachers across our Nation are doing. The award serves as a challenge to continue to find innovative ways to make mathematics meaningful for all students. ”

Chad Sharpe**2011 - Science**

Natrona CSD#1



“We are all beneficiaries of many individuals' experiences, love of life, passion for learning, and loving care, without which we would not have achieved. The Presidential Award represents their sacrifice, dedication, and moral devotion to preserving intelligence. Most importantly, the Presidential Award represents the infinite debt that is owed to educators who recognize that children are our most cherished natural resource.”



Kathleen Kniss**2012 - Math**

Velma Linford Elementary
Albany CSD #1



“To be nominated for the Presidential Award is humbling and empowering. It is humbling to be in the company of the educators who have won the award in previous years--they provide inspiration and motivate me to ensure that all students have access to quality instruction. It empowers awardees to advocate for mathematics instruction that meets the needs of all students, calling for innovation and collaboration to promote teaching that extends beyond mathematical proficiency to mathematical literacy.”

Laurie Graves**2012 - Science**

Big Horn Elementary
Sheridan CSD#1



“The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is an achievement of the highest mark and a tremendous honor. Receiving such an esteemed award reflects my students’ eagerness to learn, my colleagues’ support and collaboration efforts, and my passion for teaching and learning. This award brings such positive recognition to the instruction of mathematics and science and the need to focus on these areas in order to prepare our children for challenges yet to be discovered.”



Thomas (Gene) Smith

2013 - Science

Dean Morgan JHS

Natrona CSD#1



“Science is the tool I use to encourage students to develop their potential for the future. Receiving the Presidential Award reinforces that I have been able to convey my enthusiasm into life lessons and to help students see that learning and community involvement are lifetime commitments. The Presidential Award challenges me to do more for my students, to become a better teacher, and to try harder to help each student see that every person is important.”

Kim Parfitt

2013 - Science

Cheyenne Central HS

Laramie CSD#1



“Our future will need creative, passionate, scientifically literate thinkers. As a teacher, I am honored to play a role in nurturing curiosity, inquiry, and joy in my students as they develop into the leaders of tomorrow. The Presidential Award recognizes the importance of teachers' work and is a significant reminder that our country values science education that provokes and inspires students to excel.”



Nancy Windholz**2014 – Math**

Saratoga Elementary

Carbon CSD#2



“Receiving this prestigious mathematical Presidential Award is an exhilarating recognition! It's a recognition of the people and educational experiences that have culminated in my ability to provide elementary students with valuable learning experiences--establishing a mathematical foundation for their academic careers and promoting their lifelong learning. Receipt of this award challenges me to continue finding new ways to enhance my teaching of mathematics for the betterment of my students.”

Gayla Hammer**2014 - Science**

Lander Middle School

Fremont CSD#1



“I am honored to be recognized with the Presidential Award in science instruction because I know there are many other deserving teachers out there. My coworkers, school administrators, and my family have encouraged me to create units of study to engage students and increase their knowledge and understanding of science, and it is gratifying to be recognized for that. I feel extremely blessed for this recognition. The award helps me encourage teachers to embrace the importance of science education.”



Patricia Urasky

2015 – Math

Cheyenne East HS

Laramie CSD #1



“I became a teacher because of my passion for teaching and learning. This award verifies my success at my chosen profession. It is an incredible honor to be chosen to receive the Presidential Award. I never expected to be rewarded for what I love to do, helping students to learn, grow and achieve success.”

Lesley Urasky

2015 - Science

Rawlins High School

Carbon CSD#1

Teaches in Saratoga



“For me, teaching science is not just a full time job; it is a passion that spills into every facet of my life. The Presidential Award is validation that the rigor, relevance, and enthusiasm I bring to my classroom can inspire a generation of life long learners and problem solvers. It is a great honor to join the cadre of professionals that have achieved this award and a sign that our efforts in STEM education are valued by our nation’s leaders.”



Aryn Tippetts **2016 – Science**

Lovell Middle School
Big Horn SD#2



“Educating every child is truly a journey. Each day brings new challenges and victories as we encourage our students to learn at high levels and recognize their value and self-worth. The honor of the Presidential Award celebrates and validates the dedication, hard work, and commitment required to educate not just today, but for tomorrow. This award is humbling and inspiring. It challenges me to do better today than yesterday and ignites a deeper passion to strive for educational excellence daily!”

Janet Wragge **2016 - Science**

Oregon Trail Elementary
Natrona CSD#1



“Receiving the Presidential Award is such an incredible honor. It validates all the hard work I've put in over the years, but it isn't just my work that is being recognized. The dedicated staff I get to work with every day creates the platform for me to do my best work. Because of that, I am able to create exciting, engaging, and powerful learning opportunities for my students. Through this award, I get to celebrate my fellow teachers' support and encouragement and what it has done for me.”



TBD
2017 – Math
2018 - Math

TBD
2017 – Science
2018 - Science



TBD
2019 - Math

This could be you!



TBD
2019 - Science

This could be you!



Mentoring

Questions and Discussion

