

20TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARDS BANQUET

December 8, 2022

Murphy's Taproom and Carriage House

Bedford, NH

Honoring:

Blue Ribbon Schools

State Finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics
and Science Teaching

NH Teacher of the Year semi-finalists, finalists and

2023 NH Teacher of the Year

Our emcee for the evening –
Kim Houghton,
Communications Director for the
Department of Education



Commissioner Frank Edelblut provided welcoming remarks to the group



Governor Chris Sununu reading a speech from his wife, Valerie, a member of the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, who was unable to attend.



2022 NH Teacher of the Year Sara Casassa spoke about her year



Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan sent letters to be read during the event.

JEANNE SHAHEEN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2841

December 8, 2022

New Hampshire Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Friends,


Thank you for the invitation to this year's 'Celebrating Leadership in Education' award ceremony. Please know that I join you all in spirit as we celebrate the accomplishments and hard work of Granite State educators. Thank you for the commitment and dedication you bring to New Hampshire schools daily and the impact it has on our school systems.

The role of teachers in our children's lives is crucial for their development, not only in their ability to learn but also in their creativity and social growth. Skillful educators go far beyond teaching facts. They connect with students so that they feel heard and inspire students to find their own passions. As a former teacher myself, I know that feeling when you finally connect with a student and watch them thrive. Through your hard work, each of you has made an impact like this on a student whether you recognize it or not.

While teaching can be incredibly rewarding, I know it comes with its challenges as well. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced educators to adapt to new ways of teaching and come up with creative solutions to keep their students engaged. Please know that all of your hard work does not go unnoticed. Now – and at every point in the future – you have the appreciation of the communities that you serve.

Congratulations to all of the honorees in attendance this evening, and best wishes as you continue your excellent work.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States Senate

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Dear Friends,

I regret that I can't be with you this evening, but I join you in celebrating the work of all the incredible teachers throughout the Granite State.

I come from a family of educators – my mom, my dad, my husband, and now my daughter, are all educators – and I know how hard teachers work every day to find creative ways to inspire students and ignite a lifelong passion for learning.

I am in awe of the work and the creativity that teachers throughout the Granite State have exhibited, and I am grateful for your unyielding commitment to our state's children. You continuously exceed the highest standards of educational leadership and excellence, and your work is essential to our students' success.

Congratulations to Colonel Christian Cheetham, the Teacher of the Year for 2023, and to all of the teachers honored here tonight, on your well-deserved recognition. And thank you to the New Hampshire Department of Education for hosting this celebration of our state's great educators.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Blue Ribbon Schools



Chris Smith, Dean and Christine Storniolo, Board Director of The Birches Academy of Academics and Art



Dr. Jay Badams, Superintendent and Julie Stevenson, Principal of Hanover High School



Jamie Winny, Principal and Amanda Isabelle, Superintendent of Enfield Village School

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

2022 State Finalist – Susan Leifer, Mast Way Elementary School, Lee



Anne Wallace, PAEMST State Coordinator, presents Susan with a gift



Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Susan Leifer, Governor Chris Sununu



Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Gus Leifer (Susan's son), Susan Leifer, Governor Chris Sununu

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists



Amanda Bridges,
James Faulkner
Elementary School



Cathi Stetson, Oyster
River High School



Bonnie Heath,
Hampton Academy



Julie Verde, Saint
Thomas Aquinas High
School

Not pictured: Mikella Eichen, Atkinson Academy and Carmen Kosow, New Searles Elementary School

NH Teacher of the Year Finalists



Susan Bradford, James
Masticola Elementary
School



Jennifer MacLeod,
Hollis Brookline Middle
School



Curt McDermott,
Goffstown High School

2023 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Christian Cheetham



2023 TOY Semi-Finalists and Finalists



Left to right: Frank Edelbut, Cathi Stetson, Bonnie Heath, Carmen Kosow, Julie Verde, Governor Sununu, Christine Brennan, Amanda Bridges
(not pictured: Mikella Eichen)



Left to right: Frank Edelbut, Susan Bradford, Christian Cheetham, Jennifer MacLeod, Governor Sununu, Christine Brennan
(not pictured: Curt McDermott)

2023 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year



Christian Cheetham with the Alvirne High School JROTC Cadets



Christian Cheetham with his family

NH Department of Education



Left to right: Nate Greene, Frank Edelblut, Liz Brown, Caitlin Davis, Stacey MacStravic, Governor Sununu, Christine Brennan, Stephen Appleby, Kim Houghton, Melissa White