

21ST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARDS BANQUET

November 30, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton, Manchester, NH

Honoring:



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



Blue Ribbon
Schools



NH Teacher of the Year
semi-finalists, finalists
and 2024 NH Teacher
of the Year



All set up and ready to go!

Commissioner
Frank Edelblut
provided
welcoming
remarks to the
group



New Hampshire First Lady, Valerie Sununu, a member of the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, talked about the Teacher of the Year process



2023 NH Teacher of the Year Christian Cheetham spoke about his year



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

JEANNE SHAHEEN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUITE SH-506
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2841

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2906

November 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

I join you in spirit at this year's Celebrating Leadership in Education award ceremony. This event is a wonderful opportunity to salute our Granite State teachers, school administrators and support staff for their commitment to opening a new world of possibilities for students. Thank you to everyone here for the passion and skill that you bring to your job each and every day.

Educators not only instruct our children, but also encourage their personal growth and nurture their creativity, their talents and their curiosity. Reinforcing this foundation of skills and values allows students to dream big and build a future where they fulfill their potential. As a former public school teacher myself, I know firsthand that joy when you connect with students and watch them thrive. It's a truly rewarding feeling in a profession filled with unique challenges, long hours and demanding work.

Educators like you are the key to shaping an exciting future for young people full of promising opportunities and personal fulfillment. You do remarkable work in school districts across the Granite State, and I hope that you take pride in these efforts and your far-reaching impact in the lives of students in your schools.

New Hampshire is grateful for all you do, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUITE SH-324
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3324

United States Senate

November 30, 2023

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

Dear Friends,

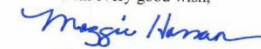
I am sorry that I cannot be with you today, but I join you in celebrating the incredible work of teachers throughout the Granite State.

I come from a family of educators – my mom, my dad, my husband, and now my daughter have all been educators– and I know how hard teachers work every day to find creative ways to inspire students, and ignite a lifelong passion for learning. The work that you do each day is essential for our children's success. Every child needs a "grown-up" in their corner; someone to support them, believe in them, and help them reach their full potential – and I know that the best teachers help fill that vital role for their students. I am in awe of your work and the creativity that you and your fellow educators exhibit year after year to provide an exemplary experience for our state's students.

As everyone here knows, education is the foundation for success. In New Hampshire, we must continue to work to build a future where every child can get the kind of education that they need to succeed. And everyone being honored here tonight helps to advance that goal. Beyond any single award or honor, your most enduring legacy will be the lives of your students; the incalculable ways that you helped propel students toward future heights, or helped remind a student that every person counts. You may never know the full measure of how many lives you have touched, but you should be confident knowing that you helped make our world a better place.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Duclos, the 2024 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year, 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

Rye Elementary School



L to R: Valerie Sununu, Jacquie DeFreze (teacher), Michelle Pitts (Principal), Stephen Zdravec (Superintendent) and Commissioner Edelblut

Mary C. Dondero Elementary School,
Portsmouth



L to R: Valerie Sununu, Katherine Callahan (Principal), Cathy Dailey (teacher) and Commissioner Edelblut

Riddle Brook School, Bedford



L to R: Valerie Sununu, Sue Jennato (School Board Chair), Tom Laliberte (Assistant Superintendent), Molly McCarthy (Principal) and Commissioner Edelblut

2023 State Finalists Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)



Valerie Sununu, Joanne Goelzer,
Commissioner Edelblut



Valerie Sununu, Karen Nekton,
Commissioner Edelblut



Valerie Sununu, Sandra Swiechowicz,
Commissioner Edelblut

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

**Kimberly
Dorman**
Colebrook Academy
and Elementary School



Heather Burkett
Hampstead Central School



**Jacqueline
DeFreze**
Rye Elementary School

Justine Dube
Parker-Varney
Elementary School



NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

Jennifer
Lambert
Groveton Elementary
School



Caitlin
Lomando
Mt. Pleasant School



Erin
Hollingsworth
Gilmanton School



Anna Jennison
Beech Street School

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

Natalie Sears
Manchester Central
High School



Sarah Strauss
Clark-Wilkins
Elementary School



Jennifer Menken
Hooksett Memorial
School



Robert Pooler
Hollis Upper Elementary
School

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

Scott
Thibodeau
Pembroke Academy



Andrea von Oeyen
Oyster River Middle and
High Schools

Not pictured



Congratulations to all!

NH Teacher of the Year Finalists



Ritu Budakoti
Keene Middle School

Robert Malay
Superintendent



NH Teacher of the Year Finalists



Sean Donahue
McKelvie
Intermediate School

Jennifer Asdot
Principal



NH Teacher of the Year Finalists



Gregory Parker
Manchester Memorial
High School

Jeff Hebert and Amy
Christopher
Assistant Principals



2024 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Elizabeth Duclos



Left to right: Liz giving her speech, Liz with the First Lady and the Commissioner, Liz with the First Lady, Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan, Liz with her husband Jeremy.