



Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

For Immediate Release

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ADAMS 12 FIVE-STAR SCHOOLS TEACHER CHOSEN AS COLORADO FINALIST FOR PRESIDENTIAL TEACHING AWARD

Jacob Thompson, an eighth-grade mathematics teacher at STEM Lab K-8 in Northglenn, has been selected as a Colorado Finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Thompson, a 7-year teacher in Adams 12 Five-Star Schools, is now one of three Colorado mathematics teachers eligible to receive a PAEMST award for the 2020-2021 awards cycle, the nation's highest honor for U.S. K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teachers. The awards program is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

State Finalists represent the most outstanding teachers Colorado has to offer and serve as both a model and an inspiration to students and fellow teachers.

"To be able to walk away from this school year with this recognition means a lot to me," says Thompson. "My application would not have been successful if it were not for the perseverance of my students or the resilience of my coworkers throughout the year." The lesson Thompson submitted with his application showed students, some in class and some learning remotely, engaging in real-world applications of mathematics. "I truly believe that all students have the ability to learn mathematics at a high level given the right opportunities, and it is important we find ways to provide these opportunities for all students, because you never know who will come up with an idea that will change the world," adds Thompson. "His teaching and classroom environment is the perfect blend of guided curiosity and best teaching," says Tracy Tellingier, the principal of STEM Lab K-8. "Jacob is creative in his thinking and is always willing to challenge and break down the barriers in an effort to achieve the utmost success for students."

Each year, a national committee of prominent mathematicians, scientists, mathematics/science education researchers, district-level personnel, and classroom teachers recommends up to 108 teachers to receive PAEMST awards. Up to two teachers—mathematics or science—from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Territories as a group (comprising American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and schools operated in the United States and overseas by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) receive the award. Teachers who are selected as PAEMST awardees receive a trip to Washington, D.C., where they attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities. They also receive a \$10,000 award from NSF, a Presidential certificate, and join an elite cohort of award-winning teachers who can influence state/jurisdiction and national STEM teaching.