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Mountain View Elementary School Educator Named a North Carolina Finalist for Nation's Highest Teaching Award

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K–12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. Ashe County Schools is pleased to announce that Courtney Eller, MVES Elementary STEM Innovator, is one of the top three applicants in the state for the Excellence in Science Presidential Award!



Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. Since 1983, more than 5,200 teachers have been recognized for their contributions to STEM education. Up to 108 teachers are recognized each year.

On being named a finalist, Eller said, “I am deeply honored and humbled to be a state finalist for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This award holds a special place in my heart, as it recognizes the significance of my students' curiosity and excitement for science and other STEM content areas. I have had the privilege of working with exceptional colleagues, former educators, family and friends who have inspired me to grow my craft and make STEM come alive for my students.”

The applications of the 2024 North Carolina Finalists have been sent to the national selection committee, under the direction of the National Science Foundation. The committee will choose up to two awardees, typically selecting one awardee in mathematics and one awardee in science.

“We are excited Courtney Eller is being recognized for her excellence as a STEM teacher on the State and National levels,” said Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox. “Ms. Eller has a gift for creating engaging lessons that foster curiosity, inspire students to think critically, and build confidence and the ability to excel through design thinking. This is a prestigious award for which she is truly deserving.”

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