

# The 2022 North Carolina Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Announcement



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. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of STEM education. Since 1983, more than 4,800 teachers have been recognized for their contributions to STEM education. Up to 108 teachers are recognized each year.

**The following teachers are being named as the 2022 North Carolina Finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.**

## In the area of Mathematics



### Rebecca Criste

Stedman Elementary  
Cumberland County Schools

**Current role:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Years of Education Experience:** 16

**Education:** Fayetteville State University Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education K-6 2001-2004 Fayetteville State University Master in Elementary Education K-6 (M.Ed.) 2006-2009 Gardner Webb University Master of Arts in Executive Leadership and Administration 2014-2016

**Lesson focus of the application:** Building fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations.

*Rebecca (left) is pictured with Stanly Douglas, principal, receiving finalists' letter.*

### Kimberly Inman

Pinnacle Classical Academy  
Shelby, NC

**Current role:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher

**Years of Education Experience:** 5

**Education:** Master of Education/ Middle Grades concentrated in Math and Social Studies/ Brenau University/ 2013 Bachelor of Arts/ Secondary Education Social Studies and History/ University of Pittsburgh/ 2010

**Lesson focus of the application:** Exploring three dimensional shapes and their two-dimensional representations.

*Kimberly received flowers from her school during the surprise announcement.*



### Nardi Routten

Creekside Elementary School  
Craven County Schools

**Current Role:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Years of Education Experience:** 23

**Education:** Bachelors/Elementary Education/Florida Atlantic University/1997 Masters/Reading Education/Florida Atlantic University/2015 Masters/Educational Leadership/Florida Atlantic University/2018

**Lesson focus of the application:** Area and perimeter, problems involving a fixed area and varying perimeter.

*Nardi (right) is pictured with Angela Franks, principal.*

## In the area of Science

### Adam Haas

Rocky River Elementary School  
Union County Public Schools

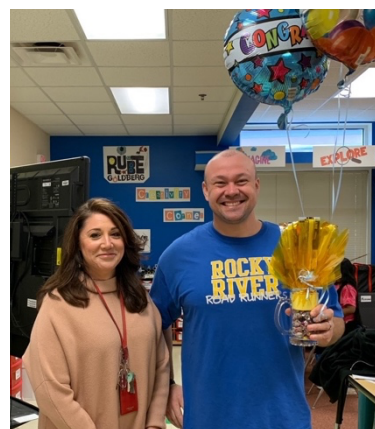
**Current role:** K-5 STEM teacher

**Years of Education Experience:** 14

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Childhood Education/Elementary Education K-6/State University of New York at Cortland/2007 Master of Arts in Childhood Education/Elementary Education/Wingate University/2011

**Lesson focus of the application:** Comparing and contrasting characteristics of unicellular and multicellular organisms.

*Principal Cathy Haney surprising Adam with balloons during the announcement.*



### Kerrie Lalli

Walter G. Byers School  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

**Current role:** K-5 STEM, science, and reading teacher

**Years of Education Experience:** 14

**Education:** B.A. Biology, Cornell University, 2003 B.A. English, Cornell University, 2003 M.S.T. Childhood Education, State University of New York at Cortland, 2007 Graduate Certificate Autism, Johns Hopkins University, 2012 Graduate Certificate Mind, Brain and Teaching, Johns Hopkins University, 2014 M.A. Curriculum and Instruction - STEM, Adams State University, anticipated 2023

**Lesson focus of the application:** Air masses have characteristics in terms of temperature and humidity based on where they form.

*Principal Anthony Calloway presenting Kerrie with awards letter.*

### Susan Merrell

Morehead Elementary School at Camp Glenn  
Carteret County School System

**Current role:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Years of Education Experience:** 13

**Education:** Bachelor of Environmental Design/Visual Design/North Carolina State University/1987 Elementary Education K-6 Certification/East Carolina University/2008

**Lesson focus of the application:** The effect of cloud cover on Earth's heating and cooling.

*Susan (middle) being surprised during bus duty with the awards letter by Principal Christy Propst and Superintendent Robert Jackson.*



The applications of the 2022 North Carolina Finalists have been sent to the national selection committee, under the direction of the National Science Foundation. The national selection committee will choose up to two awardees, typically selecting one awardee in mathematics and one awardee in science.

**The next application cycle will open next school year for 7- 12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science teachers.** For more information about the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, please visit [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org).



## Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Rewarding & Inspiring Great Teaching Since 1983