

2019 Teacher of the Year Recipients

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RE: 2019 Teacher of the Year Recipients

The Montrose Education Foundation, Inc. hosted a breakfast for the Teacher of the Year candidates on March 28, 2019. The Montrose Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Program recognizes licensed classroom teachers for the significant contributions they make to their schools, district and their community. Nominations are submitted by parents, students, colleagues or community members and are accepted in October through mid-November.

Fifty-nine teachers were nominated and were introduced during the American Education Week Reception which was held on November 13, 2018. Eighteen outstanding educators completed the Candidate Essay Questionnaire, which is based on the Colorado Teacher of the Year Standards and were eligible for consideration. The 3 level recipients; Elementary, Middle & High School Teachers were awarded a \$500 check by Alpine Bank to use in their classrooms. They are also eligible to apply for the Montrose Education Foundation \$10,000 Impact Award.

Congratulations to the following recipients. Quotes from their application answering 'what they believe makes them an outstanding teacher:'

Elementary School Recipient – **Christina Kohout - Northside Elementary – 5th Grade Teacher**

"My personal belief is that every student, no matter what their barriers, can and will learn if given the right circumstances. As a teacher, I believe that I get out of teaching exactly what I put in. This is my philosophy for my life in general, but certainly applies to education. To be an outstanding teacher, I think is something that I am always striving for. I feel that as if I can wake up one morning and say, "I am now an outstanding teacher," than that is the day that I may have just lost my curiosity for learning."

Middle School Recipient – **Shay Freeburg – Columbine Middle – Language Arts Teacher**

"I am an outstanding teacher because I am cool. Ok, I try to be cool. Actually, I am probably not cool at all. I love show tunes, Bob's Burger, regularly talk about the time continuum and story lines of the Avengers and X Men and drone on about Harry Potter for hours. I take my affliction of following pop culture and connect with my kids. I try to make relationships. The great teachers that I look up to agree that one of their driving

beliefs and aspirations is that they want, not have to, but WANT to make connections with their students."

High School Recipient – **Rusty George – Montrose High – Science Teacher**

"My teaching philosophy is built around a love of learning and a strong passion for science education. There are many discrete factors that must all be melded together in a never-ending quest for lessons that reveal mastery in teaching and maximize student learning. Each student enters your room with their own learning style, strengths and limitations, so each student must be seen as an individual with a different set of expectations to maximize each student's growth."



L to R: Shay Freeburg, Middle School Teacher of the Year; Christina Kohout, Elementary School Teacher of the Year; Rusty George, High School Teacher of the Year

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