A near-record 167 teachers are candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

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ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 18, 2018 – The 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be chosen from a field of 167 candidates. These candidates have accepted their nominations and completed the required materials to become eligible for the honor. The number of candidates this year is the third-most in the 54-year history of the award, and the most since 1981.

This year’s program will name the 54th Minnesota Teacher of the Year, celebrating the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade and Adult Basic Education teachers, from public or private schools.

The 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced Sunday, May 6, at the Radisson Blu Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. Over the coming weeks, a 25-member panel of community leaders will name a group of semifinalists and finalists.

Organized and underwritten by Education Minnesota, the Minnesota Teacher of the Year program receives support from Education Minnesota ESI, Educators Lifetime Solutions, EFS Advisors, Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation, McDonald’s Restaurants of Minnesota, Radisson Blu Mall of America, SMART Technologies and United Educators Credit Union.

The candidates for 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, listed by their school districts, are:

Jacque Sorensen, Albert Lea Area Schools
Cheryl Bailey, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Elizabeth Dorsing, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Shawn Everson, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Rachael Fountain, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Jonathan Kell, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Ashley Topp, Anoka-Hennepin School District
Arik Anderson, Austin Public Schools
Angie Hurtig, Bertha-Hewitt Public Schools
Celeste Wiederholt, Seven Hills Preparatory Academy, Bloomington
Lynn Larson, Bloomington Public Schools
Sara Lyons, Bloomington Public Schools
Tracy Fix, Braham Area Schools
Thea Trebelhorn, Caledonia Area Public Schools
Alison Uhrhammer, Cambridge Isanti Schools
Julie Wells, Cambridge Isanti Schools
Sue Franke-Clarke, Cannon Falls Area Schools
Colleen Salay, Centennial Schools
Brad Schultz, Central Public Schools
Melissa Oberg, Cook County Schools
Marie Techam, Delano Public School District
Holly Bowen-Bailey, Duluth Public Schools
Jessica Guse, Duluth Public Schools
Kathryn Johnson, Duluth Public Schools
Elizabeth Kersting-Peterson, Duluth Public Schools
Cindy Upton, Duluth Public Schools
Daniel DeMarce, Eden Prairie Schools
Tara Jones, Eden Prairie Schools
Sara Frater, Elk River Area Schools
Scott Glew, Elk River Area Schools
Kimberly Johnson, Elk River Area Schools
Tina Kryduba, Elk River Area Schools
Tina Ostroot, Elk River Area Schools
Derek Wold, Elk River Area Schools
Erin Meyers, Fairmont Area Schools
Suzette Fuerst, Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Faribault
Adam Kuehnel, Minnesota Correctional Facility–Faribault
Jackie Demarais, Faribault Public Schools
Janet Smith, Faribault Public Schools
Kaylee Wiens Faribault Public Schools
Jenny Marshall, Farmington Area Public Schools
Tim Leistikow, Fridley Public Schools
Ben Lofgren, Hawley Public Schools
Jayne Oachs, Herman-Norcross Community Schools
Lynn Wilson, Hibbing Public Schools
Lauren Wester, Hopkins Schools
Erica Upton-Wurst, Houston Public Schools
Michelle Sperle-Berg, Howard Lake•Waverly•Winsted Public Schools
Daryl Lundin, Hutchinson Public Schools
Pamela Beatty, Intermediate District 287
Dani Berry, Intermediate District 287
Melissa Brandenburg, Intermediate District 287
Erin Doherty, Intermediate District 287
Jody Seurer, Intermediate School District 288
Stephanie Snow, Intermediate District 916
John Dorfner, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools
Lori Haak, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools
Stephanie Maybee, Inver Grove Heights Community Schools
Eric Carlson, Kelliher Public Schools
Claire Larson, Kenyon Wanamingo School District
Kayla Hanson, Kittson Central Schools
Jay Meiners, Lakeview Public Schools
Jonathan Gilmer, Lakeville Area Public Schools
Ann Hoffman, Lakeville Area Public Schools
Melissa Mills, Lakeville Area Public Schools
Elisabeth Haen, Mahtomedi Public Schools
Kathryn Mackin, Mahtomedi Public Schools
Sandra Hatlestad, Mankato Area Public Schools
Diane Waterworth, Marshall County Central Schools
Malia Norton, Medford Public Schools
Randy Thompson, Menahga Public School District 821
Shannon Lepper, Milaca Public Schools
Ashley Denaway, Prodeo Academy, Minneapolis
Courtney Bell, Minneapolis Public Schools
Kathleen Horner, Minneapolis Public Schools
Alyssa Kuhlman, Minneapolis Public Schools
Jane Mason, Minneapolis Public Schools
Susan McNaughton, Minneapolis Public Schools
Nicolle Johnston, Minneota Public Schools
Karen Dalager, Minneota Public Schools
Michael Benson, Moorhead Area Public Schools
Charlie Borak, Moose Lake Community Schools
Rebecca Jackson, Moose Lake Community Schools
Jacquelyn Stevens, Mora Public Schools
Shana Ulrich, Morris Area Schools
Kari Eloranta, Mounds View Public Schools
Jake Hairrell, Mounds View Public Schools
Claudia Powers, Mounds View Public Schools
Bill Sucha, Mounds View Public Schools
Lynne Wilzbacher, North Branch Area Public Schools
Peg Sorenson, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public Schools
Pamela Ledermann, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public Schools
Shaylee McComb, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public Schools
Kim Slegers, Northfield Public Schools
Debra Amelse, Osseo Area Schools
Jessica Carr, Osseo Area Schools
Rich Johnston, Osseo Area Schools
Ann Kozarek, Osseo Area Schools
Jaquinetta Mitchell, Osseo Area Schools
Jennifer Paulson, Osseo Area Schools
Lisa Thompson, Osseo Area Schools
Renee Suess, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Otsego
Amanda Gislason, Owatonna Public Schools
Mary Jo Schaefer, Pierz Public Schools
Deb Anderson, Pipestone Area Schools
Amy Lorang, Pipestone Area Schools
Wendi Weber, Pipestone Area Schools
Desirae Jensen, Princeton Public Schools
Alex Murkve, Princeton Public Schools
Leah Gagve, Proctor Public Schools
Marissa Knapp, Randolph ISD 195
Sheena Tisland, Red Wing Public Schools
Colleen Crossley, Robbinsdale Area Schools
Melissa Davey, Robbinsdale Area Schools
Patricia Peuschold, Robbinsdale Area Schools
Amanda Harmon, Rochester Arts and Sciences Academy, Rochester
Sarah Ryan, Rochester Public Schools
Sue Vatnsdal, Roseau Community Schools
Andrew Bocchi, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Independent School District
Patrick Moriarty, Roseville Area Schools
Greg Ueland, Roseville Area Schools
Trysten Olson, Round Lake/Brewster School District
Ethan Cherin, Saint Paul Public Schools
Soraya Folley, Saint Paul Public Schools
Joe Gwin, Saint Paul Public Schools
Laurie Halvorson, Saint Paul Public Schools
Jenna Harrison, Saint Paul Public Schools
Justin Hudalla, Saint Paul Public Schools
Molly Keenan, Saint Paul Public Schools
Shirley Land, Saint Paul Public Schools
Mark Mueller, Saint Paul Public Schools
Brandi Pottle, Saint Paul Public Schools
Jeanie Swenson, Saint Paul Public Schools
Renee Swanson, High School for the Recording Arts, Saint Paul
Sara Windschitl, Metro Deaf School, Saint Paul
Adam Johnson, Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
Kelly Austin-Hansen, Shakopee Public Schools
Karen Hislop, Shakopee Public Schools
Kelly Holstine, Shakopee Public Schools
Monica Schmit, Shakopee Public Schools
Jennifer Tabios, Shakopee Public Schools
Jacob Toufar, Shakopee Public Schools
Lois Lewis, South Koochiching-Rainy River District
Jim Schneider, South Koochiching-Rainy River District
Angela Clement, Spring Lake Park Schools
Gregory Truso, St. Anthony-New Brighton School District
Jean Michael, St. Cloud Area School District
Kathryn Oberg, St. Louis Park Public Schools
Shane Van Beek, Triton Public Schools
Kelly Arneson, Underwood School District #550
Breck Grove, Underwood School District #550
Cody Kittelson, Wabasso Public Schools
David Aeling, Waconia Public Schools
Heather Anton, Waconia Public Schools
Alyssa Larsen, Waconia Public Schools
Holly Becker, Wadena-Deer Creek Schools
Katrina Reeves, Warroad Public Schools
Rebecca Kittelson, Wayzata Public Schools
June Heather Carver, Westonka Public Schools
Kim Collins, Westonka Public Schools
Jennifer Naslund, Westonka Public Schools
Lisa Paul, Westonka Public Schools
Katie Rutledge, Westonka Public Schools
Angela Bianco, White Bear Lake Area Schools
Nick Marty, White Bear Lake Area Schools
Amber Mlynczak, Winona Area Public Schools