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**Nov. 17, 2009**

## **News Release**

### ***2010 Colorado Teacher of the Year Will Be Named Friday, Nov. 20***

The Colorado Department of Education will announce the Colorado Teacher of the Year at an evening reception on Friday, Nov. 20 at The Oxford Theatre at the Oxford Hotel, 1637 Wazee St., in downtown Denver. The reception will begin at 4:30 p.m.; the announcement will be included in a program beginning at 5:15 p.m.

Gov. Bill Ritter, Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones, Colorado State Board of Education member Angelika Schroeder and 2009 Teacher of the Year Susan Elliott are expected to attend.

The winner is chosen by a five-member committee from a list of nominees of exemplary classroom teachers.

The recipient becomes the Colorado nominee for National Teacher of the Year honors and serves as a teaching ambassador to communities and organizations around the state and nation. The Colorado Teacher of the Year represents the entire teaching profession in Colorado.

The Teacher of the Year selection process includes a written application, letters of recommendation, classroom visits, endorsements from the teacher's district and personal interviews.

Nominees are judged on their ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities. They are expected to play an active role in the community and to have earned the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues.

The finalists for the 2010 Colorado Teacher of the Year are:

- Justin Darnell, Denver Public Schools. As a sixth, seventh and eighth grade science teacher at Bryant Webster K-8, Darnell has implemented research-based instructional practices and created a model dedicated to student success. Darnell says his efforts have played an integral role in increasing academic rigor, raising student achievement and setting students on a path toward lifelong success. Darnell is currently working toward an Ed.D. in Leadership for Educational Equity from the University of Colorado, Denver. Bryant Webster K-8 is located at 3635 Quivas St. in Denver. The school's telephone number is 303-433-3336.
- Lynn Jackson, Boulder Valley Schools. A fifth grade teacher at Eldorado K-8, Jackson believes a positive relationship is the key to academic success in a school setting. She says when a strong relationship has been established a student feels more connected and valued and therefore is more willing to take risks, move forward and demonstrate a true desire to do their best. Eldorado K-8 is located at 3351 S. Indiana St. in Superior. The school's telephone number is 720-561-4400.
- Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 Five Star Schools. As a social studies and technology teacher for grades six through eight at Hulstrom Options School, Pearson says that each day teaching has its rewards. Pearson relishes the discussions she holds in class with her students in which students can infer, synthesize and analyze what they are reading and learning. She also says rigor is a must for all students and teachers. She says it is critical to train students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Hulstrom Options School is located at 11551 Wyco Drive in Northglenn. The school's telephone number is 720-972-8997.

The Colorado Department of Education is pleased to host this event due to the generous support and sponsorship of the Colorado Education Association, The Oxford Hotel, SMARTer Kids Foundation and the Colorado Masons.

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit

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