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## **News Release**

### ***2011 Colorado Teacher of the Year Finalists Announced***

The Colorado Department of Education announced today three finalists for the Colorado Teacher of the Year.

The finalists for the 2011 Colorado Teacher of the Year are:

- Kristin Donley, Boulder Valley School District. A high school science teacher at Monarch High School, Donley is inspired by her students' excitement for learning. Donley believes in giving more choice to students. She recently piloted a forensic science biotechnology class that taught students the basics of forensic science. The final project involved using iPods to film the crime scene and interview suspects. Monarch High School is located at 329 Campus Dr., in Louisville. The school's telephone number is 720-561-4200.
- Amy L. Nichols, Aurora Public Schools. As a high school mathematics teacher at William C. Hinkley High School, Nichols says students need safe educational environments, rigorous curriculums and opportunities to excel. She believes that providing students with immediate access to college level courses creates a sense of purpose in their learning and has the potential to increase their level of achievement. William C. Hinkley High School is located at 1250 Chambers Road in Aurora. The school's telephone number is 303-537-5249.
- Michelle Line 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 her greatest accomplishments in education have not been what she has done alone, but the work she does with students, families, colleagues and the community. 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. Hulstrom Options School is located at 11551 Wyco Drive in Northglenn. The school's telephone number is 720-972-8997.

The winner will be announced in November and is chosen by a six-member committee comprised of individuals from state-level education agencies.

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.

For more information, visit  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeawards/trtoyinf.htm>

**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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