

**Happy New Year~ I hope you all have had a chance to relax and recharge for the upcoming semester. Looking forward, we need to select our UCHS Teacher of the Year. Please review the following criteria and click on the link to submit your vote for TOY. All votes should be submitted no later than 3:00 PM on January 8, 2020.**

## **Teacher of the Year 2019-20**

The Tennessee Teacher of the Year program is designed to promote recognition, respect and appreciation for teachers, to stimulate interest in teaching as a career, and to encourage public involvement in education.

The region-level Teachers of the Year are part of the Commissioner's Teacher Advisory Council. Council members share feedback and advice on issues that impact teachers and help communicate information with teachers in their region. The nine region-level Teachers of the Year serve a one-year term on the council and the three grand division winners serve a two-year term; thus, the council has twelve total members each year.

The Tennessee Teacher of the Year represents Tennessee in the National Teacher of the Year selection process, which is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Terry Weeks, 1988 Tennessee Teacher of the Year, was named 1988 National Teacher of the Year. 1994 Teacher of the Year Frank Bluestein was named by Disney/McDonald's as the 1996 Performing Arts National Teacher of the Year. The Tennessee Teacher of the Year 2018-19 is Melissa Miller of Franklin Special School District.

Teachers of the Year are selected competitively through five cycles: school, district, region, grand division and state in three grade bands: pre-k–4, 5–8, and 9–12. Please note that these levels refer to the grade(s) taught by the teacher and not to the grade structure or designation of the school.

Teachers selected at each cycle receive local recognition and awards underwritten by local sources. State recognition/awards include a banquet honoring the nine region-level Teachers of the Year.

### **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

**In order to be considered for the state-level award, a Teacher of the Year candidate must:**

- be a full-time, certified, in good standing, pre-k–12 teacher in a state-accredited public or charter school in Tennessee at each stage of the recognition process (school, district, region, grand division, state, and national levels),
- spend the majority of the school day in direct instruction to students,
- have a minimum of three years of experience as a teacher in Tennessee public or charter schools, and
- have a track record of exceptional gains in student learning.

**Teachers of the Year at all levels must:**

- have a broad understanding of research-based models for effective teaching and of current trends and issues in education,
- be facilitators of learning, skilled in implementing creative teaching strategies,
- be able to show evidence of positive teacher effect over time related to student achievement through formal and informal documentation,
- be able to explain, discuss, and defend a personal philosophy of teaching,
- be poised, articulate, enthusiastic, and energetic,
- be exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled,
- have a superior ability to teach and to inspire in students a love of learning,
- be recognized as leaders in the community and in the school,
- show active involvement and leadership in professional development and extra-curricular activities,
- inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn, and
- have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues.