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August 10, 2023

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Superintendent Cheryl Mango-Paget requests nominations for the 2024 Coconino County Teacher of the Year, Rookie Teacher of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Coconino County Superintendent of Schools, Cheryl Mango-Paget is proud to announce a request for nominations for the 11th Annual Coconino County Teacher of the Year, 6th Annual Coconino County Rookie Teacher of the Year, and 3rd Annual Coconino County Lifetime Achievement Award.

The awards are a distinguished countywide event created to celebrate, honor, and recognize full-time teachers from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. Even the simple act of nominating a teacher can mean the world to them. Nominating a teacher recognizes them for their hard-work and efforts throughout the academic year.

To nominate a candidate, please submit a completed Coconino County Nomination Form. Forms are available at the County Superintendent of Schools' website by visiting <https://coconino.az.gov/3154/Coconino-County-Teacher-of-the-Year>. Nominations must be received **September 29, 2023, at 5:00 PM**.

All finalists will be recognized at the awards event in April 2024 and will receive prizes. The Teacher of the Year will receive an automatic nomination for the Arizona Teacher of the Year Award and a one-year car lease for a new Toyota vehicle courtesy of Findlay Toyota Flagstaff along with various other prizes. The event is made possible through sponsorships by businesses and community members. Findlay Toyota Flagstaff is the Coconino County Teacher of the Year lead recognition sponsor. APS sponsors the Rookie Teacher of the Year and Stone Canyon Media is the exclusive radio sponsor.

To be eligible for the Coconino County Teacher of the Year, a teacher must:

- Spend the majority (over 50%) of the school day in direct instruction to students.
- Have a valid Arizona teacher certificate or alternative teaching certificate.
- Have completed at least four (4) full years as a classroom teacher at the time the application is submitted for consideration.
- Teach any grade(s) or combination of grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 in a state-accredited traditional district, charter public school, or private school in Coconino County.
- Be a full-time teacher and plan to continue in an active teaching status through the end of 2023-2024 school year.

Rookie Teacher of the Year (RTOY) Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Coconino County Rookie Teacher of the Year, a teacher must:

- Have COMPLETED ONLY ONE FULL YEAR and be in second year in fall 2023 as a full-time teacher at the time of nomination (Hired fall of 2022).
- Spend the majority (over 50%) of the school day in direct instruction to students.
- Have a valid Arizona teacher certificate, valid provisional certificate, or alternative teaching certificate.
- Teach any grade(s) or combination of grades Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 in a state-accredited traditional district, charter public school, or private school in Coconino County.
- Be a full-time teacher and plan to continue in an active teaching status through the end of 2023-2024 school year.

Lifetime Achievement Award Eligibility Requirement

To be eligible for the Coconino County Lifetime Achievement Award, individual must:

- Be a part of the County education community and has exhibited a lifetime (20+ years) of achievement in K-12 education.
- Have shown achievement in leadership, teaching, and service.
- This award is chosen at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools and is a surprise announcement made at the Teacher of the Year Event in April 2024.

Nominations are required for consideration in an award category. If nominated, teachers submit a detailed essay application with letters of support. A panel of five judges will score the applications using a rubric and discussion to determine the top five candidates in each category. The top five candidates will then be interviewed. Judges will score the interviews with another rubric to determine the three finalists in each category.

For more information, please contact Michelle Despain, program coordinator for the Coconino County Superintendent of Schools office, at 928-679-8070 or email – mdespain@coconino.az.gov.

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