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Candidates for 2018 South Dakota Teacher of the Year announced

PIERRE, S.D. – The following individuals have been named South Dakota's Regional Teachers of the Year for the 2016-17 school year:

- Cara Biegler, science, Timber Lake Middle School
- Caitlin Bordeaux, computer science and multimedia, St. Francis High School
- Jennifer Mudder, fifth grade, Tyndall Elementary
- Jeremy Risty, social studies, Brandon Valley High School
- Rachel Schaefer, kindergarten, Elkton Elementary
- Jessica Zwaschka, chemistry, Spearfish High School

"It's an honor to announce these Regional Teachers of the Year as part of Teacher Appreciation Week celebrations," said South Dakota Secretary of Education Dr. Melody Schopp. "I commend them for the work they're doing to help prepare all South Dakota students for college, career and life."

A statewide panel of educators will select one of these regional finalists to represent the state as the 2018 South Dakota Teacher of the Year. The 2018 South Dakota Teacher of the Year will be announced Oct. 19, 2017, at the Systems Change Conference in Rapid City. That individual will be South Dakota's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. The 2018 National Teacher of the Year will be announced during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in spring 2018.

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