



## 2020 LOUISIANA TEACHER + PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to announce the 2020 Teacher and Principal of the Year winners. These educators are making exceptional gains with students, guiding them to achieve at the highest levels in the state. Their commitment to student success exemplifies Louisiana's teaching profession.

The Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semi-finalists, along with Louisiana's Milken Educator Award winner, were celebrated at the [13th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala](#) on Friday, July 19, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center in Baton Rouge. This exciting event is co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

*Congratulations to these outstanding educators!*

### 2020 OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



*Christopher Dier*  
St. Bernard Parish

**Christopher Dier** teaches World History and Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography at Chalmette High School. He is a proud product of the St. Bernard Parish public school system and the son of a longtime teacher. In his senior year of high school, Hurricane Katrina uprooted him to Texas, where he finished high school and attended East Texas Baptist University to study history, political science, and psychology. Later, Dier returned home and obtained two Master's degrees—one in education administration and one in teaching—from the University of New Orleans. Dier is dedicated to providing an equitable and multicultural education to all and is always seeking ways to develop as an educator. In 2016, Dier was selected as a Hollyhock Fellow at Stanford University, a program that brings educators together to work collectively toward creating more inclusive classrooms. In 2018, he completed an AP Summer Institute course at Fordham University, and he currently participates in a professional development program at Harvard Business School that focuses on case method teaching, in which he works to find solutions to real-world problems and challenges in the classroom. Dier has also been recognized as a "Distinguished Teacher" by the Delta Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, and he has written a book on St. Bernard Parish that was published by the History Press.

### 2020 OVERALL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



*Jennifer Dennis Carey*  
Orleans Parish

**Jennifer Dennis Carey** is the School Leader of KIPP East Community Primary in New Orleans, LA. She founded KIPP East in 2014, starting with a team of 10 dedicated educators and 100 kindergarten students. Under her leadership, the staff has grown to a team of 60, and the school now serves approximately 560 students in Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade. Last year, KIPP East's first year to participate in state testing, LEAP 2025 results placed the school in the top 10 elementary schools in New Orleans, including selective enrollment schools. KIPP East was also recognized as a top-performing high-poverty school, meaning the school scored in the top 20 percent of Louisiana schools that serve a population of greater than 75 percent economically disadvantaged students. Before founding KIPP East, Carey began working with KIPP New Orleans 12 years ago as a 5th grade reading teacher, compelled to become part of the systemwide change that was occurring in the city. Previously, she worked for Teach for America and taught 2nd grade in the South Bronx in New York City. Carey received a bachelor's degree in political science from Emory University in Atlanta and a Master's degree in teaching from Pace University in New York City.

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## 2020 TEACHER DIVISION WINNERS



**JESSICA R. BORLAND**  
Elementary School - Grant Parish



**LISA CELESTINE JACK**  
Middle School - Evangeline Parish



**EMILY HARDY OGDEN**  
High School - Richland Parish

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## 2020 PRINCIPAL DIVISION WINNERS



**LISA BURNS**  
Elementary School - Bossier Parish



**TAMIKA SORAPURU GREEN**  
Middle School - St. Charles Parish



**CARLI A. FRANCOIS**  
High School - Ascension Parish

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## 2020 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**LACEY D. BLOCKER**  
Calcasieu Parish



**AMANDA N. CRANE**  
Claiborne Parish



**BRITTANY LEGENDRE**  
Lafourche Parish



**ANNIE SMITH**  
Lake Charles Charter  
Academy Foundation



**JESSICA BREAUX**  
Orleans Parish

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## 2020 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**BRAD THOMAS SOILEAU**  
Allen Parish



**S. CHAD SCHULZ**  
Beauregard Parish



**DR. CHRISTELLA DAWSON**  
City of Monroe  
School District



**GREGORY HAYDEN**  
Livingston Parish



**CHARLES WRIGHT**  
Ouachita Parish

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## 2020 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SEMI-FINALISTS

**DAN OSGOOD**  
Belle Chasse Academy

**JUSTIN CRAIG  
OVERACKER**  
City of Monroe  
School District

**LORETTA PERRY-  
WOOTERS**  
Community School  
for Apprenticeship  
Learning

**SCARLETT WALKER**  
DeSoto Parish

**RAJASEKHAR  
YARRAGUNTLA**  
East Carroll Parish

**ALEJANDRA Z.  
WIGGERS**  
Franklin Parish

**JAMIE STAES**  
Jefferson Parish

**LAUREN LYNN DAIGLE  
SCHOEFFLER**  
St. Landry Parish

**HUNTER LANDRY**  
St. Martin Parish

**KATHLEEN CRANFORD**  
Tangipahoa Parish

**KRISTAL EIMER**  
Terrebonne Parish

**SHANE A. THEALL**  
Vermilion Parish

**DANELLE NASH**  
Vernon Parish

**EUNICE DIEGUEZ**  
West Feliciana Parish

**NATHAN MUNSELL**  
Zachary Community  
School District

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## 2020 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR SEMI-FINALISTS

**NANCY B. ROUSSEAU**  
Assumption Parish

**MICHAEL ILGENFRITZ**  
Caddo Parish

**CATASHA NICOLE  
EDWARDS**  
East Baton Rouge  
Parish

**WILBERT GILBEAUX JR.**  
Jefferson Davis Parish

**TERRAH AVERETTE-  
HARRISON**  
Jefferson Parish

**JEFFREY DEBETAZ**  
Lafayette Parish

**RUSTY FARRAR**  
Lincoln Parish

**DR. REBECCA PIPPEN**  
Rapides Parish

**TENE' QUINONES  
LEACH**  
Sabine Parish

**TIFFANY FRANCIS**  
St. Martin Parish

**CHRISTOPHER R.  
OUFNAC**  
St. Tammany Parish

**RONALD J. FORET**  
Terrebonne Parish

**ANTHONY CAIN**  
Union Parish

**JESSICA LAMBERT  
MAJOR**  
West Baton Rouge  
Parish

**PENNY HALE**  
West Carroll Parish

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## 2018 MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER



**STEPHANIE WHETSTONE**  
West Feliciana Parish

