



The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to announce the 2024 New Teacher of the Year. Annually, the Department honors the state's most exceptional educators through the Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. The New Teacher of the Year has been added to these current award programs to recognize the contributions of Louisiana's first year teachers. All nine of our New Teacher of the Year finalists will serve as New Teacher Advisors for The New Teacher Experience.

Congratulations to **Phoenix Morel LeBlanc** who will also serve as the ambassador for new teachers across the state.

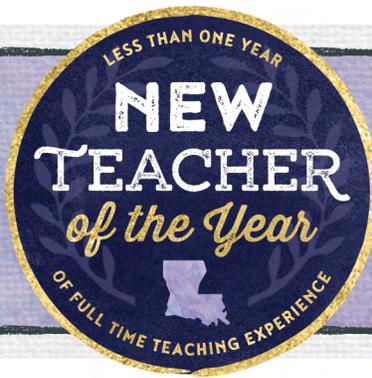
2024 NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Phoenix Morel LeBlanc

**Albany Middle School
Livingston Parish Schools**

Phoenix Morel LeBlanc is currently teaching 7th-grade science at Albany Middle School in Albany, Louisiana. LeBlanc received a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Education from Southeastern Louisiana University. LeBlanc strives to engage students in the practice of science through utilizing meaningful real-world phenomena that students investigate both inside and outside the classroom. LeBlanc is also the head cheerleading coach at Albany Middle School and a sponsor of the Albany Middle School science club. The Albany Middle School science club focuses on exploring various fields of science and improving their community. LeBlanc is a passionate teacher who strives to provide an exceptional educational experience and to show her students and athletes that they have a profound impact on the world around them.



2024 NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



Emily Barker
Plaquemines Parish



Spencer Butts
Calcasieu Parish



Mary Camille Cole
Bossier Parish



Anthony Felder
West Baton Rouge Parish



Tristan George
Zachary Community Schools



Payton Onellion
Livingston Parish



Rebecca Spears
St. Landry Parish



Brad Winstead
Bossier Parish