

# LOUISIANA TEACHER & PRINCIPAL *of the Year*

The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to announce the 2024 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees. 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.

All Teacher and Principal of the Year finalists and semifinalists were honored at the *17th Annual Cecil. J. Picard Educator Excellence Gala Celebration*, which was held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. This exciting event was co-sponsored by [Dream Teachers](#).

*Congratulations to these outstanding educators!*

## 2024 OVERALL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



*Kylie Altier*  
East Baton Rouge Parish

**Mrs. Kylie Altier** is a first-grade teacher at Buchanan Elementary School in Baton Rouge, LA. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Florida State University and her Master of Elementary Education with a focus on reading from Stephen F. Austin University. Altier believes that all students deserve to feel immensely loved in school and be excited by an engaging curriculum while having their learning tailored to their individual needs and interests. To that end, she has pursued grants to enrich not only her students' educational experiences but also the whole school community. With these grants, she brought life to a school garden focused on sustainable urban agriculture, created a mobile kitchen where students cook fresh vegetables they harvest, and designed a curriculum employing virtual reality headsets to boost experiential learning. She fills her classroom with experts to help students learn more about their passions. Altier's students have gotten to interview and learn from a New York Times Best Selling Author, the National Championship-winning Tiger Girls, curators from the Museum of Natural Science, and more! Last year, her students showed an average of 2.5 years of reading growth. While in Texas, Altier received many accolades, including being named Teacher of the Year for her school, district, and region in 2019 and the Mentor Teacher of the Year for Stephen F. Austin University in 2019. At Buchanan Elementary, Altier has started an extracurricular Garden Club, coordinated the first science fair, and led professional development in her district.

## 2024 OVERALL PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



*Tia Mechelle Trahan*  
Lafayette Parish

**Mrs. Tia Mechelle Trahan** is the proud principal of Lafayette Middle School (Grades 6–8) in Lafayette, LA. Trahan is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) and is a veteran of the United States Army National Guard. There, she served on a Specialized Task Force focusing on Community Outreach. Trahan received her Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University Shreveport. An educator for over twenty years, Trahan's educational journey began as a teacher and reading facilitator. She was an assistant principal for two and half years, Principal of Milton Elementary–Middle School for four years, and is now entering her seventh year as Principal of Lafayette Middle School. Trahan was one of 21 Louisiana educators awarded a Leaders Fellowship and was part of the First Cohort of Louisiana Leaders to complete the National Institute for School Leaders. She was named 2007 Teacher of the Year at Katherine Drexel Elementary School and named 2023 Middle School Principal of the Year for Lafayette Parish. She currently serves as the Middle School Representative for the Lafayette Principals Association along with being a member of Lafayette Parish School System's Superintendent Panel, Wellness Team, Reimagine Grant Advisory Committee, and she serves on the Louisiana NBCT Network Board. Trahan continually seeks to strengthen her knowledge as an instructional leader to bridge gaps. She also strives for excellence in aiding all educators and students to maximize their potential. Trahan, born and raised in Louisiana, is honored to be a Louisiana Educator.

---

## 2024 TEACHER DIVISION-LEVEL HONOREES



**Sandra Saye-Foucqueteau**  
Elementary School - Zachary  
Community School District



**Cory Joy Craig**  
Middle School - Bossier Parish



**Dennis "DJ" Pevey**  
High School - Tangipahoa Parish

---

## 2024 PRINCIPAL DIVISION-LEVEL HONOREES



**Dr. Monya Thomas-Criddle**  
Elementary School - Jefferson Parish



**Barry Carter**  
Middle School - DeSoto Parish



**Marvin M. Evans**  
High School - Ascension Parish

---

## 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**Janet G. McCrevan**  
Caddo Parish



**Kody J. Chase**  
City of Monroe  
School District



**Jessica Parker**  
Franklin Parish



**Michelle Lee Shirley**  
Natchitoches Parish



**Richard Martin**  
The Willow School

---

## 2024 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**Jose Cobian**  
Calcasieu Parish



**Lindsey Fontenot**  
Cameron Parish



**Dr. Ragan Lorraine**  
Lafourche Parish



**Gordan D. Ford**  
Lincoln Preparatory  
School



**Jason St. Pierre**  
Livingston Parish

---

---

## 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR SEMIFINALISTS

**Kelly Landry**  
Ascension Parish

**Dannon Dauzat**  
Avoyelles Parish

**Ronnika Allen**  
Bricolage Academy

**Timothy Comeaux**  
Evangeline Parish

**Erin Melton**  
Grant Parish

**Bernadette Fruge**  
Iberia Parish

**Devante Williams**  
Iberville Parish

**Aerial Storer**  
Jefferson Davis Parish

**Kayla Hebert**  
Lake Charles  
Charter Academy

**Brittany Ellis**  
Ouachita Parish

**Tariane Placide**  
St. John the Baptist  
Parish

**Chasity Toups**  
St. Mary Parish

**Kellee McClain**  
St. Tammany Parish

**Christopher Deon**  
Vernon Parish

**Ryan Gilbert**  
Warren Easton Charter

---

## 2024 PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR SEMIFINALISTS

**Jennifer Doucet**  
Allen Parish

**Mark Weldon**  
Beauregard Parish

**Scott E. Canady**  
Bienville Parish

**Michael Pedrotty**  
Bossier Parish

**Jennifer Martin**  
Lincoln Parish

**John H. Vanison, Jr.**  
Plaquemines Parish

**Tracy M. Vorrice**  
Rapides Parish

**Shannon Diodene**  
St. Charles Parish

**Angie Laiche Poche'**  
St. James Parish

**Mitchell Alex Fontenot**  
St. Landry Parish

**Dr. Wanda Jones  
Phillips**  
St. Martin Parish

**Blaise Pellegrin**  
Terrebonne Parish

**Dr. Sonya C. Louviere**  
Vermilion Parish

**Taya Loupe**  
West Baton Rouge Parish

**Karolyn M. Taylor**  
West Feliciana Parish

