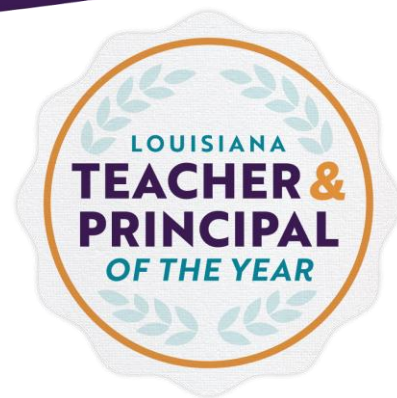




Teacher and Principal of the Year

Example Bios

Alisha Butler, 2027 Louisiana Teacher of the Year

Alisha Butler believes the ultimate purpose of education is not simply to provide access, but to cultivate independence. As the English Dual Enrollment teacher and Intermediate Braille Instructor at the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI) in Baton Rouge, she designs engaging, evidence-based learning experiences that empower students to become confident, capable, resilient, self-advocating learners prepared for college, careers, and life. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English and Mathematics Education from Southeastern Louisiana University and a Master of Education in Educational Technology and Leadership from the University of Louisiana Monroe.

Beyond her classroom, Butler extends her impact as LSVI's K-12 instructional coach and interim technology coordinator, leading initiatives that strengthen teaching and learning. She partners with educators to design accessible, high-quality instruction that equips students to navigate barriers while maintaining high expectations for every learner.

A nationally certified Braille educator, Butler is one of fewer than 500 educators nationwide to hold the National Certification in Unified English Braille. She has served on three Louisiana Department of Education LEAP review committees and contributes to national accessibility initiatives through ACT's TACs Engaged with Blind and Visually Impaired Learners project.

Butler shares her expertise through professional learning, publications, and presentations focused on Universal Design for Learning, accessible instructional design, and technology integration. As Louisiana's 2027 Teacher of the Year, she is committed to inspiring educators, expanding opportunities for all learners, and helping every student develop the confidence, skills, and independence to thrive.

Lauren Rentrop, 2027 Louisiana Principal of the Year

Lauren Rentrop believes the ultimate purpose of school leadership is not simply to manage a school, but to empower people to achieve more than they thought possible. As principal of Patterson Junior High School in Patterson, Louisiana, she leads with visibility, service, and high expectations, believing that meaningful relationships, shared responsibility, and unwavering commitment create the conditions for students, educators, and schools to thrive. She earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Master of Education from Nicholls State University.

Since assuming leadership in 2019, Rentrop has transformed Patterson Junior High through a relentless focus on developing people, improving instruction, and fostering continuous improvement. When she became principal, the school was identified as Urgent Intervention Required due to declining student

performance. Under her leadership, Patterson Junior High has increased its School Performance Score by 18.1 points in six years, earned recognition as a Louisiana “comeback campus” for surpassing pre-pandemic achievement levels, and became the highest-performing middle school in St. Mary Parish on the 2025 LEAP.

Rentrop builds leadership capacity by coaching educators, creating opportunities for collaboration, and developing systems that empower teachers and students to achieve at high levels. She builds trust with families, staff, and the community while stepping into classrooms whenever support is needed.

As Louisiana’s Principal of the Year, Rentrop is committed to inspiring leaders to lead with passion, guide with grace, and recognize that leadership’s greatest impact is measured by the educators developed, students empowered, and communities strengthened.