

Teacher of the Year Committee – middle school

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Kristina Sparfven for consideration for the 2020 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Kristina has been a teacher at Chariho Middle School for 20 years. She currently serves as a mathematics specialist, and has also taught seventh and eighth-grade mathematics.

Her love of math was identified early on during her college career at Rhode Island College. Through encouragement by her professor she focused her studies on math. As Kristina embarked on her teaching career, she discovered that she truly enjoyed teaching this subject. Approximately 9 years ago she decided to become a Math Specialist which enabled her to work with students in grades 5 through 8. As a specialist she is able to work with small groups of students that provides time for students with greater opportunities to understand math and build their problem-solving skills.

Sparfven recently won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. It was administered by the National Science Foundation, the awards, which were announced on Oct. 15, recognize outstanding mathematics and science teachers from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. This recognition was established in 1983. Each year the President may recognize up to 108 teachers.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. Along with the certificate signed by the President of the United States, a trip to Washington DC and will also receive a sizeable monetary award.

Sparfven is now one of more than 4,800 teachers that have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession at the national level. Through this recognition Kristina will be able to enhance her instruction skill set in assisting students that experience challenges with math with her new network of math teachers across the United States. It is without hesitation that I nominate Kristina Sparfven for the 2020 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.