



New Jersey's Teacher of the Year is a Finalist for the 2018 National Teacher of the Year

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – Today, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) announced that Amy T. Andersen, a high school American Sign Language (ASL) teacher at Ocean City High School in Cape May County and the 2017-18 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, has been selected as one of four finalists for the 2018 National Teacher of the Year. This is the first time since 1972 that a New Jersey teacher has been a finalist for National Teacher of the Year.

"I am truly humbled to have been named a finalist for National Teacher of the Year, and I am proud and honored to represent the fantastic teaching taking place across New Jersey," said Amy T. Andersen. "I believe all children deserve to have a voice, no matter how different, whether signed or spoken, and a way to express that voice. I am excited to have this opportunity to bring attention to American Sign Language, deaf culture and the global benefits of being bilingual."

"On behalf of the entire education community of New Jersey, I want to congratulate Amy on this remarkable honor," said Education Commissioner Kimberley Harrington. "Amy is receiving national acclaim for the life-changing impact she has had on her students, and her dedication to not only teach but empower children in her community."

The National Teacher of the Year program is run by the CCSSO. One of the four finalists will be named the 2018 National Teacher of the Year this spring, and will spend the next year traveling the country to represent educators and advocate on behalf of teachers and students. Additional information can be found on the CCSSO's [National Teacher of the Year Program](http://www.state.nj.us/education/national-teacher-of-the-year-program) website

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