TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY BEAM

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Lindsay Beam, the Calhoun County Teacher of the Year from Blountstown Middle School in Blountstown, FL.

Lindsay considers her highest priority as an educator is to serve the needs of her students. She will arrange meetings with them before school and during her planning time to provide extra tutoring and support to build up their confidence in math. Her students note she is the kind of teacher that makes a difference in their lives long after they have completed her class.

Lindsay began her teaching career in 2010 as a first grade teacher at Blountstown Elementary School and moved to teaching fifth grade in 2012. Since 2015, she has taught sixth grade math, as well as a portion of eighth graders at Blountstown Middle School.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Lindsay for her work to teach her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLY DANIELLE DOHERTY-KOCH

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Danielle Doherty-Koch, the Citrus County Teacher of the Year from Crystal River High School in Crystal River, FL.

Danielle was humbled to receive this award as she believes teaching is a highly rewarding profession. She focuses on motivating her students to learn and promotes a good work ethic in her classroom. She considers this to be an important attribute for a student’s success in school and in life.

Danielle develops a lesson plan and goal for each of her students and organizes these plans depending on a student’s individual needs. This ensures each student has an opportunity to grow in
a classroom environment that best fits their academic strengths.

Danielle is a biomedical and marine science teacher at Crystal River High School, where she has taught for her entire 8-year teaching career. She is also the link crew coordinator at the school, focusing on building senior and junior level students into leaders who mentor each year’s incoming freshmen class.

I extend my best wishes to Danielle for her work as a teacher and look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TUCKER DUCLOS

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Tucker Ducas, the Dixie County Teacher of the Year from Dixie County High School in Cross City, FL.

Tucker first developed his passion for teaching when he moved to Prague and worked as a full-time English teacher at a private school. Upon his return to the United States, he enrolled in a 1-year teacher certification program at Providence College.

While at the college, Tucker assumed full responsibilities as the cooperating teacher for four English classes across the 9th and 11th grades, as well as 20 hours of student teaching in a high-poverty and urban school. Afterwards, the Interstate Reciprocity Agreement between Florida and Rhode Island enabled him to receive his Florida Professional Educator’s Certificate to teach in the State of Florida.

Since 2016, Tucker has taught 11th grade English and AP literature at Dixie County High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English writing and literature from Emmanuel College in Boston, MA.

I extend my best wishes to Tucker for his dedication to his students and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY ERB

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Danny Erb, the St. Johns County Teacher of the Year from Pedro Menendez High School in St. Augustine, FL.

Danny enjoys teaching math, where he works hard to ensure that his students develop confidence in their problem-solving ability. He attempts to make math fun and empowers his students in a different light.

Danny has taught at Pedro Menendez High School since 2015. He earned his master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He taught at Green Run High School for three years after moving back to his hometown of Virginia Beach in 2001. He moved to Florida in pursuit of a career as an engineer with NASA, knowing he would never regret taking the opportunity. The experience is used as a reminder for his students to pursue their dreams.

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Danny for his tireless work to help his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DAKEYAN GRAMAH

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Dakeyan Gramah, the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year from C. Leon King High School in Tampa, FL.

Dakeyan teaches his students more than just academic skills; he teaches patience and kindness. He considers this to be incredibly beneficial to his student’s success in life and in school. Dakeyan first began his musical career as a saxophonist at King High School and views his return as its band director the full circle to his musical career. In addition to teaching, he serves as president of the Hillsborough County Secondary Music Council and authored a high school African-American heritage curriculum for secondary music.

Dakeyan received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Florida, where he was part of an honors music fraternity and the Fighting Gators marching band. He returned to his hometown of Tampa to begin his teaching career and earned his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of South Florida.

As a proud Gator myself, I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dakeyan for his dedication to music and his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA GREEN

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Andrea Green, the Charlotte County Teacher of the Year from Lemon Bay High School in Englewood, FL.

Andrea credits her success in education to collaboration with her past and present colleagues and from the support of her husband, family, and friends. Her professional goal is to help all students find success in science and cultivate an appreciation for knowledge learned throughout their educational careers.

Outside of her classroom, Andrea sponsors the school’s environmental club, where interested students gather to discuss environmental issues affecting Florida. She is also a member of the Lemon Bay Literacy Council and an active participant in the school’s science professional learning community.

Andrea has taught in Charlotte County Public Schools since 1999. She teaches Advanced Placement environmental science, honors anatomy and physiology, and environmental science. She received her master of arts degree in global sustainability from the University of South Florida.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Andrea for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DAWN HENDERSON

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Dawn Henderson, the Highlands County Teacher of the Year from C. Leon King High School in Avon Park, FL.

Dawn received this award at the Summit Awards ceremony held at her school. Her colleagues note that she dedicates herself to teaching her students believing that education is the key to changing their mindset, and opens doors for their future success.

Parents of her students say she is willing to meet with them at any time, before or after school, to discuss any concerns they may have.

Dawn has worked at Avon Park High School since the beginning of her teaching career in 2004. She currently serves as an advancement via individual determination coordinator.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dawn for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO JADE OSCEOLA

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jade Osceola, the Glades County Teacher of the Year from Pembreet Emahakv Charter School in Okeechobee, FL. Pembreet Emahakv means “Our Way” in Creek, the native tongue of Florida’s Seminole Indian Tribe.

Jade strives to teach her students about their identity as Native Americans and encourages them to practice communicating with each other in the Muscogee “Creek” language. She knows her students want to understand their heritage, and she believes learning about their ancestors’ native land is key to their success. She works each day to help preserve the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s cultures and traditions.