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 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 10 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 DAWN HENDERSON

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Dawn Henderson, the Highlands County Teacher of the Year from Avon Park 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 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Okeechobee, FL. Pemayetv 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 identity.

She works each day to help preserve the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s cultures and traditions.
As a student at Seminole Elementary School in the 1990’s, Jade participated in a weekly culture class on the Brighton Reservation to learn about Seminole history. This was her favorite class and served as an inspiration for her continued learning of Native American affairs.

Like her students, Jade is a second language learner of Creek. She believes teaching the language to her students is very important, as there are only 53 speakers of the language left in the region. She is dedicated to doing everything she can to keep the language alive for future generations.

Jade teaches Creek 1 and 2 at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School to seventh and eighth grade students. She graduated from Edison College in 2004 and was offered a job teaching Seminole history. The weekly program helped the creation of the charter school, an entity that has been a part of the Be-cky focuses on teaching students about plant ecosystems, which has allowed the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a program that educates students about the conservation of the environment.

Jade is a product of education and has been an influential speaker for the Be-cky received this award months after Hurricane Michael devastated Bay County, which caused several hurricane-related delays throughout the school district. She was honored and humbled to represent all who have worked to repair homes and begin rebuilding the Bay community.

Becky is an agriculture biotechnology teacher who has taught for 29 years. She has teamed up with parents and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a scientific exploration of animal and plant ecosystems, which has allowed for students to construct their own freshwater habitats.

Becky focuses on teaching students how to raise and grow their own food, which provides them meaningful tools and allows them to save money at the grocery. Becky takes pride when former students return to tell her that she better-equipped them to navigate life after their class together.

I thank Becky for her hard work in educating students, especially while facing the aftermath of Hurricane Michael’s life-changing effects. I wish her the very best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA WOOD

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jessica Wood, the Monroe County Teacher of the Year from Key West High School in Key West, FL.

Jessica teaches Advanced Placement biology and biology and is the science department chair. Her work has an impact on the entire school as she leads the school’s recycling club efforts and serves as a sponsor for Keys to Be the Change, a school club focused on developing student character through service.

Jessica also works with members of outside agencies to read to younger students and promote substance abuse prevention outreach throughout the community. The main thing that inspires Jessica as an educator is the ability to effect positive change on her students by serving as a role model and to continue learning herself.

Jessica is active in her field, working on her pedagogy and assisting others. She has held numerous professional development trainings at her school and throughout the school district. She has been a part of the STEM fair and is also a member of the building level planning team.

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

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. ALTENKIRCH

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to commend Dr. Robert Altenkirch for his outstanding leadership at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Altenkirch led the university as president from 2011 to 2019. While serving in this capacity, he implemented many strategic growth initiatives and promoted economic development throughout the campus and the city of Huntsville, AL.

Under Dr. Altenkirch’s leadership, UAH provided assistance in recruiting numerous corporations to north Alabama. Those corporations include Blue Origin, Aerojet, Rocketdyne, GE Aviation, and Polaris. He also spearheaded the purchase of a 58-acre business park that is adjacent to the campus and serves as a town center for the students and faculty.

Continuing to add to his legacy, Dr. Altenkirch established the D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation business incubator. This regional initiative fosters, promotes, and connects with incubation, co-working, mentorship, funding, and strategic support.

Not only did Dr. Altenkirch expand the university physically and economically, but he also contributed to the university’s growth in total enrollment over the past 5 years. By the fall of 2019, the enrollment at UAH skyrocketed by more than 10,000 students. The average ACT score for incoming freshman reached an all-time record high at the university under Dr. Altenkirch. By fall 2018, the average score was 28.5, which is the highest among the State of Alabama’s public universities.

Studying mechanical engineering, Dr. Altenkirch earned a B.S. from Purdue University, an M.S. from the University of California, Berkley, and a Ph.D. from Purdue. He was recognized as one of the 101 Most Influential People in the State of New Jersey in 2009, as Dr. Altenkirch served as the president of New Jersey Institute of Technology for 9 years prior to his tenure at UAH.

Dr. Altenkirch deserves the highest recognition for his outstanding leadership at the University of Alabama in