

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 33 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 in 2007, where Jade taught Seminole history until 2015.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Jade for her dedication to her students and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BECKY PELTONEN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Becky Peltonen, the Bay County Teacher of the Year from Deane Bozeman School in Panama City, Florida, FL.

Becky 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 County 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 JUSTIN PIGOTT

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor Justin Pigott, the Martin County Teacher of the Year from Jensen Beach High School in Jensen Beach, FL.

Justin works to ensure his classroom is a positive environment for his stu-

dents. He wants each student to feel they are accepted, heard, and supported while in school. Justin memorializes the names of each student prior to their first day of class to ensure they know they matter to him.

Justin is an Advanced Placement calculus teacher at Jensen Beach High School and has taught for 16 years, the last in the Martin County School District. He also works as a student mentor at Indian River State College's Take Stock in Children scholarship program, assists students with SAT and ACT test preparation, and served as a sponsor for his school's math honor society.

I would like to thank Justin for the good work he has done for his students over the years. I wish all the best to him, and look forward to learning of his continued success in coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO SHANE SWEZEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Shane Swezey, the Sarasota County Teacher of the Year from Oak Park School in Sarasota, FL.

Shane received this award at the Education Foundation of Sarasota County's Ignite Education Awards Celebration in front of a crowd of more than 300 people. Shane provides music education and therapy services to students at Oak Park School, the district's center school for special needs. He is a staunch advocate for students with special needs, preferring to focus on the abilities of his students, rather than dwell on their disabilities. He views music as an engaging, motivating, and accessible medium to support his students' academic goals.

Shane's colleagues note he uses creative teaching methods to engage his students and build trust with them. He plays songs and sings with his students to cue certain words from them. When a student says the word in question, his attempt is successful, and this is part of what makes his job so worthwhile to him.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shane for his tireless work to help teach his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work 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 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 accelerates the commercialization of technology-based ventures through 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 alltime 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, Berkeley, 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