I offer my best wishes and gratitude to Derita for her dedication to teaching her students and look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING TWO PEAS CAFE
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kayla Patton, the DeSoto County Teacher of the Year from West Elementary School in Arcadia City, FL.

Kayla says that the most challenging part of teaching is finding creative ways to motivate the uninterested students. However, this can lead to the most rewarding part of her job: watching a student where they are able to do the work. Kayla implements a unique technique in her fourth grade writing class. She asks her students to translate what they see into words and then compose the visual objects into an essay.

Maintaining perseverance, self-criticism, innovation, and orderliness in work are Kayla’s keys to success. She says that channeling her student’s energy is what takes them from average to great.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Kayla for her dedication to helping her students succeed in mathematics. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.

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- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Derita Pinkard, the Madison County Teacher of the Year from Madison County Central School in Madison, FL.

One of Derita’s greatest joys as a teacher is the knowledge that she is helping to shape the next generation that will lead the Madison community, our State, Nation, and the world. By educating the youth, she hopes their decisions and dreams will positively affect communities in the future.

As a math grade teacher and math instructional coach, Derita has been a teacher for 32 years, and she does not plan to slow down. Derita is a patient educator, who likes to break down math problems for her students when they have trouble understanding the steps or formulas. She believes this approach is best suited to help them learn not only in her classroom, but also in their future classes.

Derita graduated from North Florida Junior College, earning an associate of arts degree before attending Valdosta State University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree.

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