

Elizabeth believes that teachers hold several roles in the lives of their students. For example, they are responsible for imparting knowledge, as well as providing guidance and leadership related to many of life's skills. She often considers teachers to be surrogate family members for their students.

Elizabeth's philosophy for teaching is one that states all students can learn and grow, no matter their background. She embodies the principle that having enthusiasm for learning is required to propel students, as well as others in the learning community, and makes for a more positive educational environment.

Elizabeth teaches fifth grade math and science at Wildwood Elementary School and has been a teacher for 21 years. She graduated from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

I extend my best wishes to Elizabeth on the decades she has devoted to teaching her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER DIXON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jennifer Dixon, the Pasco County Teacher of the Year from Gulf High School in New Port Richey, FL.

Jennifer is excited to come to work every day because of her students. She finds it a great honor to work with them, to understand them, to teach them, and to help them grow throughout the school year.

High school was not Jennifer's favorite time in her life, and she believes other students should not have a similar experience. She credits teachers she had throughout her educational career for making a difference, helping her to become the first person in her family to graduate from college.

Jennifer teaches economics, financial literacy, and psychology at Gulf High School. She became a teacher in 2003 and is certified to teach art K-12, exceptional student education K-12, business education for grades 6-12, and social studies for grades 6-12. She received her master's degree in education from Eastern New Mexico University and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in educational leadership policy from Texas Tech University.

I extend my best wishes to Jennifer and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO DIANA O'CONNOR

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Diana O'Connor, the Indian River County Teacher of the Year from Beachland Elementary School in Vero Beach, FL.

Diana instills her love for learning in each student, knowing this is important for them today and later in their academic careers. Diana began a schoolwide initiative for collecting

soda can tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities and is one of the lead representatives for her school's Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. She brings awareness of these issues to her students to assist their classmates who may be in need of help without their classmates knowing about it.

Diana is the exceptional student education department chair and assists general education teachers in planning standards-based instruction and diverse lesson plans at Beachland Elementary School. She is also an ESOL endorsed educator. Diana graduated cum laude from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in specific learning disabilities for kindergarten through twelfth grade and is currently working towards her reading endorsement. Diana is a certified crisis prevention and intervention educator, a clinical educator, and an Indian River County Education Association member.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Diana for helping students learn throughout the school year. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE O'HARA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Christine O'Hara, the Charlotte County Teacher of the Year from Peace River Elementary School in Charlotte Harbor, FL.

Christine enjoys sharing her passion for math with teachers and students and believes everyone is a math person at heart. She enjoys utilizing the learning experience to make math enjoyable and successful for her students.

In 2016 and 2017, Christine was identified as a High Impact Teacher by the Florida Department of Education. Her fourth grade students' growth on State testing was among the most positive in the State.

Christine is a math coach at Peace River Elementary School, teaching in Florida for 13 years, with 6 of them in Charlotte County. Last year, she became an instructional math coach and is a member of the District Elementary Math Framework committee. She graduated from Central Michigan University in 2005. Outside of her classroom, Christine teaches group fitness classes and enjoy fishing in Charlotte Harbor with her fiancé, Travis.

I congratulate Christine on her hard work for her students over the years. I extend my best wishes and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA PRICE

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Jessica Price, the Citrus County Teacher of the Year from Lecanto High School in Lecanto, FL.

Although she never planned to become a Spanish teacher, Jessica's pas-

sion for sharing a love for language makes her an excellent educator. Jessica loved learning as a student in Citrus County, focusing on Spanish and chorus as her favorite classes. She had originally planned to become a music teacher, but Spanish captivated her to teach the language to students each year. In college, she studied in Mexico, living with a family and immersing herself in Spanish culture, furthering her love of the Spanish language.

Jessica teaches Spanish at Lecanto High School and has been a teacher since 2011. She majored in Spanish and English, with minors in linguistics and teaching English as a second language from the University of Florida. Jessica also oversees her school's honor society.

I extend my best wishes to Jessica and look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KATRINA RODDENBERRY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Katrina Roddenberry, the Wakulla County Teacher of the Year from Wakulla Middle School in Crawfordville, FL.

Katrina finds it incredibly rewarding to see students motivated by science experiments and researching on their own about careers in science fields. She strives to spark their interests, which helped to raise Wakulla Middle School's average science proficiency on the Florida Science Assessment for eighth grade by 23 percent, which is 21 percent above the State average.

Katrina created and sponsors her school's science, technology, engineering, and math club, is an Odyssey of the Mind coach, Fellowship of Christian Athletes cosponsor, and is a teacher coach. She believes the ultimate measure of her success as a science teacher is when her students leave her classroom with strong foundational knowledge of science concepts and a renewed curiosity and love of learning about the world around them.

Katrina is in her third year of teaching middle school science and high school credit integrated science and integrated science honors to eighth graders at Wakulla Middle School. Previously, she taught third and fifth grade at Riversink Elementary School and is in her 12th year of teaching. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Flagler College, earned certifications in exceptional student education, middle grades integrated, and general science for sixth through ninth grades. She received her master's degree from American College of Education in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in teaching science and is an adjunct professor at Flagler College in Tallahassee. Katrina is also a NASA Space Foundation Teacher Liaison, is on the Space Educators Expedition Crew, and is a member of the National