

researchers, working with industry, will develop those technologies that allow us to retain our world leadership role in nuclear energy while ensuring economic prosperity and environmental protection.

In reference to the fifth pillar of nuclear science, space exploration, all of us in Idaho are proud to say that INL played an important role in the recent launch of the 2020 Mars Rover by assembling and testing the nuclear power system that will allow NASA scientists to learn more about our universe.

I am honored to represent this important national laboratory, which embodies the traits that built our Nation: scientific achievement, the pursuit of knowledge, and curiosity.

By spreading the word about Nuclear Science Week and inspiring our youth, we will make the world a better place for everyone.

RECOGNIZING EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Easton Elementary School in Easton, ME, on being named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. Serving 128 students from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, this outstanding school is one of only 367 schools across the country this year to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

Easton is a rural community of 1,300 residents in Aroostook County, just 20 miles from my hometown of Caribou. It is a small town with a big commitment to education.

Easton Elementary School's mission is to achieve academic excellence in a safe and nurturing environment of fairness, respect, and caring. All students are provided with personal enrichment opportunities and work with teachers and staff to set their own learning goals.

The core curriculum is math, literacy, and social studies, with a particular focus on science. Students regularly visit the renowned Francis Malcolm Science Center in Easton, which has a planetarium, interactive laboratory, and nature studies area.

In addition to strong theater and music programs, the school places an emphasis on helping students develop healthy lifestyles. The relationship between the school and the Easton Recreation Department provides students with opportunities for traditional sports programming, as well as cooking lessons and babysitting courses.

Citizenship is an important part of the curriculum. Students participate in

activities to support polio vaccine distribution, cancer research, and Down syndrome awareness. Easton is an agricultural community, and the school continues the Aroostook County tradition of starting the school year early to accommodate a 3-week break in the fall so students can help local farmers with the potato harvest. An active parent-teacher organization helps to forge a strong bond between the school and the community.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Easton Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to build students' confidence and generate momentum for learning. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Easton Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire community for this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING MARY SNOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Mary Snow Elementary School in Bangor, ME, on being named a 2019 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. Serving 240 students in the fourth and fifth grades, this outstanding school is one of only 367 schools across the country this year to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues a tradition of quality education in Bangor. Last year, the pre-kindergarten through third grade Fruit Street Elementary School, which sends students to Mary Snow, was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School.

Although students attend Mary Snow School for only 2 years, teachers and staff strive to build positive relationships with students and their families and create a welcoming atmosphere. The school involves families by hosting 10 events each year that encourage parents and guardians to become involved in their child's education.

The Bangor School Department's mission is "Academic Excellence for All." At Mary Snow, students are encouraged to develop their full potential. The core curriculum of language arts, math, science, and social studies is rigorous, yet provides the flexibility for individual students to learn at their own pace.

Mary Snow is committed to helping students pursue their interests and to discover new ones. Strong visual and performing arts programs encourage creativity. Physical education encourages healthy lifestyles. Technology is

integrated into the classroom so that students develop the skills to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Faculty, parents, and community members are committed to both academic excellence and each child's social, emotional, and physical health. Faculty work to ensure a safe and secure learning environment and to develop strong and collaborative relationships with parents and community members. An active parent-teacher organization supports enriching educational activities and promotes excellence and innovation by funding special projects and initiatives.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Mary Snow Elementary School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to build students' confidence and generate momentum for learning. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has selected Mary Snow Elementary School for this well-deserved honor, and I congratulate the entire school community for this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING POND COVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Pond Cove Elementary School of Cape Elizabeth, ME, on being named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon Exemplary High Performing School. This outstanding school is one of only 367 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This prestigious designation continues Cape Elizabeth's tradition of quality education. Last year, Cape Elizabeth High School was awarded its second Blue Ribbon. Many high school and middle school students serve as volunteer mentors for elementary pupils, making a strong and positive impact on young learners.

Pond Cove serves 530 pupils from kindergarten through the fourth grade. This award recognizes the hard work and determination of students, teachers, and staff. It is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and educators at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Pond Cove excels as a school built on a foundation of the school district's values of community, academics, passion, and ethics. Through a unique tradition of adding links to a paper chain