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Five Teachers Selected as State Finalists for Presidential Math & Science Teaching Award

Five Virginia teachers have been selected as state finalists for the 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award — regarded as the nation's top honor for mathematics and science teachers — recognizes teachers who develop and implement high-quality instructional programs that improve student learning.

The 2015 Virginia finalists — five public school teachers in grades 7-12 — are as follows:

- Robert Carroll — Plaza Middle School, Virginia Beach, for science
- Blythe Samuels — Powhatan High School, Powhatan County, for mathematics
- Kelle Scott — Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax County, for mathematics
- Stephanie Sowers — Peasley Middle School, Gloucester County, for science
- Camilla Walck — Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach, for science

Selection committees convened by the Virginia Department of Education chose the finalists from among 80 mathematics nominees and 78 science nominees.

President Obama is expected to announce the 2015 winners next year. The winners will receive \$10,000, a presidential certificate and a trip to the nation's capital for a series of recognition events and professional development activities.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House. Each year, the award alternates between teachers in grades K-6 and teachers in grades 7-12.

The program was established by Congress in 1983 and authorizes the president to bestow awards each year to honor outstanding mathematics and science teachers in the 50 states, District of Columbia, federal territories, Puerto Rico and Department of Defense schools.

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