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State Charter Schools Foundation Names Shining Star Teachers

Twenty-five state charter school teachers commended during distance learning

ATLANTA, GA – May 8, 2020 – The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF), a nonprofit foundation dedicated to supporting high-quality state charter schools in Georgia, announced 25 state charter school teachers selected as Shining Star Teachers as a part of Teacher Appreciation Week. Honorees come from around Georgia and represent 18 different state charter schools. The SCSF created the program to honor teachers who have gone “over and above” to provide distance learning during school closures due to COVID-19. Shining Star teachers will receive a \$50 gift card to Amazon and recognition through the SCSF. More than 300 nominations were accepted from parents, students, school leaders, fellow teachers, and even spouses – all who were eager to share stories of creativity and commitment during a time of crisis. The initiative is funded by the SCSF and two business sponsors who support teachers and schools – Cellairis and FEV Tutor.

“In the best of times, teachers serve as educators, mentors, and support systems for children and their families. When schools closed, that did not change. If possible, our state charter school teachers showed even more compassion and dedication to their students,” says Michele Neely, President of the SCSF. “The stories we received are nothing short of inspiring. Teachers brought groceries, gifts, laptops, and work packets for students and families. They called crying students, held ‘virtual’ field trips and career days, performed science experiments,

held ‘recess time’ and ‘social circles,’ and created entertaining and educational videos. There are also several stories of teachers helping each other with new technology and filling in when others were hospitalized. Selecting only 25 teachers as Shining Stars was difficult for our team because many teachers have had a significant impact on families across Georgia. We are so proud to be honor these teachers.”

Shining Star Teachers by School - Photos and nominations available at

<https://scsfga.org/stars/>.

- **Baconton Community Charter School, Baconton**
 - Lacy Ragin, 2nd grade
 - Paige Eilers, 3rd grade
- **Brookhaven Innovation Academy, Norcross**
 - Megan Rice, 5th grade English Language Arts (ELA)
- **Coweta Charter Academy, Senoia**
 - Kasey Sewell, 5th grade
- **Genesis Innovation Academy for Boys, Atlanta**
 - Kadeem Slocum, 5th grade
 - Tracy Dubose, 5th grade
- **Genesis Innovation Academy for Girls, Atlanta**
 - Alisha Johnson, 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) & Social Studies
- **Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics (GSIC), Hephzibah**
 - Janey Hall, Art
- **International Academy of Smyrna, Smyrna**
 - Bobby Magee, 2nd grade

- **International Charter Academy of Georgia**, Peachtree Corners
 - Felecia Tucker-Jones, 4th grade
- **International Charter School of Atlanta**, Roswell/Alpharetta
 - Jenny Bell, 6th & 7th grade English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Patti Lazenby, 1st grade
- **Ivy Preparatory Academy**, Atlanta
 - Ashley Council, 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA)
- **Liberty Tech Charter School**, Brooks
 - Joyce Christy, Early Intervention Program (EIP) & English as a Second Language (ESOL)
- **Odyssey Charter School**, Newnan
 - Robin Packer, middle school Math
 - Rebekah Roberts, 1st grade
- **Pataula Charter Academy**, Edison
 - Amy Pittman, 1st grade
 - Korie Moseley, 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) & Science
- **Resurgence Hall Charter School**, Atlanta
 - Sarah Davis, 8th grade
- **School for Arts Infused Learning (SAIL)**, Evans
 - Brandy Clements, 1st grade
 - Tony Balous, 5th grade Science & Social Studies
- **SLAM Academy – Atlanta**, Atlanta

- Ebony Dames, Kindergarten
- **Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School, Shellman**
 - Danielle VanHousen, Special Education
 - Alex Lovering, Kindergarten
- **Utopian Academy for the Arts, Ellenwood**
 - Caleb Land, 7th & 8th grade Social Studies

About the State Charter Schools Foundation

The State Charter Schools Foundation of Georgia (SCSF) is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to supporting high quality state charter schools serving children throughout Georgia by leveraging resources to help schools launch, build capacity and grow. For more information about the State Charter Schools Foundation, visit www.scsfga.org