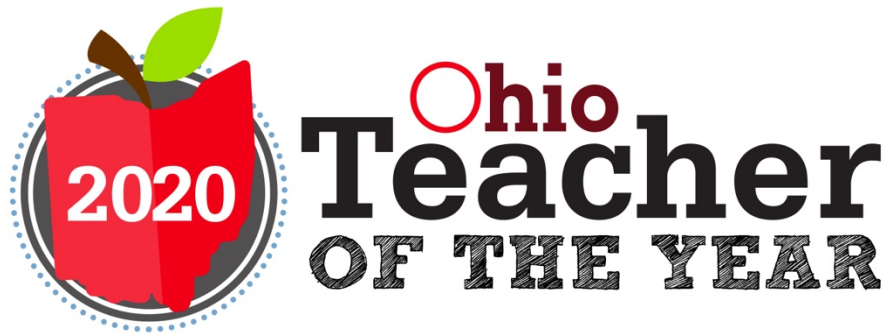


For immediate release: July 23, 2019

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## Local Educator Announced as Teacher of the Year for District 10

Andrea Harpen of Blanchester Local Schools recently was announced as the 2020 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 10. Harpen is a chemistry and physics teacher at Blanchester High School.

Harpen and 10 other regional Teacher of the Year honorees each have the chance to be named the 2020 Ohio Teacher of the Year this fall.

“Ohio has so many amazing teachers who commit themselves each and every day to the success of our students,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria said. “I’m proud to recognize these teachers for their accomplishments and for the excellence they represent. Teachers are the biggest contributor to the success of a student, and it’s important that we continually find ways to support our educators by recognizing and valuing great teaching across the state.”

School administrators, fellow educators, parents, students and community members nominated teachers in State Board of Education District 10 for the regional award. Nick Owens, the State Board’s District 10 representative, worked with a committee of educators, parents and business leaders to select Harpen.

“I was honored to select Andrea Harpen as this year’s Ohio Teacher of the Year for District 10,” State Board Member Owens said. “Every day in the classroom, Andrea uses her prior business world experience to bring to life real-world examples for her students. Andrea is a true innovative and servant leader in STEM education. She is very deserving of this recognition.”

Pandora McCarty, principal at Blanchester High School, said in the nomination form that “Andrea Harpen is a chemistry and physics teacher with fifteen years teaching experience at Blanchester High School. Her background prior to teaching and raising her family was as a chemical engineer managing the processing and packing of soybean oil for Proctor & Gamble’s Ivorydale Food Plant. While teaching, Andrea has incorporated her industry experience into her teaching and has distinguished herself as a leader in STEM education through the incorporation of summer research of breakout topics in science.”

A panel of education and community stakeholders will select the 2020 Ohio Teacher of the Year early this upcoming school year. That educator will represent the state in the national Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Harpen and the 2020 Teacher of the Year program.