



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

DATE: December 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Recognition of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) 2019 Maryland Civic Engagement Champion

PURPOSE:

To recognize Ms. Michelle St. Pierre, who was selected as NASBE’s 2019 Civic Engagement Champion for Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In partnership with the Frank Islam Institute for 21st Century Citizenship (FII), the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) created the CEC award to highlight the critical role that middle school teachers play in helping students become active, responsible citizens. Teachers from four states representing each of NASBE’s regions—Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Washington—were eligible to apply.

Ms. St. Pierre is a teacher at Loch Raven Technical Academy in Baltimore County, where she teaches social studies. As noted in her application, her students were galvanized into action by the Parkland shooting and became advocates for policies that would reduce the impact of gun violence on their generation. A Soapbox Competition gave students a chance to issue a call to action to their classmates on issues from racial equality to sexual orientation, and they determined that students could directly affect the issue of discrimination and exclusion of students based on sexual orientation. As a result of their work, all teachers in the school will receive additional training on the issue. Ms. St. Pierre notes that she now reviews her instruction and communications with an eye toward incorporating inclusive language.

Other state winners include: Jane Leyderman, Dever Elementary School in Chicago, IL; Michael Neagle, Pyne Arts Magnet School in Lowell, MA; and Don Jenkins, North Whidbey Middle School in Oak Harbor, WA.

ACTION:

None. For information and recognition.