

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1723

**A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the members of the
2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year team.**

WHEREAS, The Kansas State Department of Education sponsors the Kansas Teacher of the Year program, which identifies, recognizes and utilizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the program is to build and utilize a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in the improvement of schools, student performance and the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Two teachers, one elementary and one secondary, in each of the state's four United States congressional districts were selected as finalists for recognition as Kansas Teacher of the Year, with the recipient being chosen from among the eight finalists; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Teacher of the Year is awarded with the Hubbard Foundation Kansas Teacher of the Year Ambassadorship, which enables the person selected to devote significant time during the second semester to activities supporting the mission of the program. The 2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year and finalists were honored at an awards banquet on September 21, 2025. All members received a cash reward as well as mementos of the event; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Teacher of the Year is nominated to represent Kansas in the National Teacher of the Year, a project of the Council of Chief of State School Officers, presented by Voya Financial; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year is Rachel Marlow, Olathe USD 233; and the regional finalists are: Tracie Betz, Quinter USD 293; Jason Peters, Hesston USD 460; Susan Rogers, Derby USD 260; Lauren Sage, Kansas City USD 500; Julie Smith, Santa Fe Trail USD 434; Troy St. Clair, Topeka USD 501 and Tranda Strnad, Republic County USD 109: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend the members of the 2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year team; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send eight enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Erickson.

Senate Resolution No. 1723 was sponsored by Senator Renee Erickson.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.