



NORTH SLOPE
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
— Striving For Excellence —



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POINT HOPE TEACHER HARLEE HARVEY A FINALIST FOR 2023 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

January 27, 2023, Utqiagvik, Alaska

Iñisaġvik College and the North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) are immensely proud to announce that Harlee Aumaqpaq Harvey is a 2023 National Teacher of the Year finalist.

Harvey is a first-grade teacher at Tikigaq School in Point Hope, Alaska, and has filled the Point Hope seat on the Iñisaġvik Board of Trustees since 2021. She recently won the 2023 Alaska Teacher of the Year award. The announcement that she is one of five finalists for National Teacher of the Year cited her work to “authentically integrate the local Alaska Native Iñupiaq culture and knowledge systems into her lessons.”

Harvey taught fifth grade for three years in Point Hope before transferring to first grade six years ago. “It is an incredible honor to be recognized among the amazing educators we have across our district, state, and country,” said Harvey, “I am incredibly thankful to the community of Point Hope and the North Slope for accepting me and my family and for helping me grow into the educator I am today.”

NSBSD Superintendent, David Vadiveloo, said how proud the district is of Harvey and her nomination. “One of the most exciting aspects of this nomination is that Harlee’s classroom environment and instruction is centered on culturally responsive practices. She is a Mapkuq Mentor and has strong relationships with Elders and community members. This genuine involvement with the community outside the classroom has enriched her practice, and has earned her respect amongst families, students, and the staff.”

Justina Wilhelm, President of Iñisaġvik College, shared that, “the North Slope is blessed to have a dedicated K-12 teacher and higher education board member so committed to our region. Trustee Harvey is passionate about her work in the schools and also an active community member.”

The National Teacher of the Year Program recognizes exceptional educators from around the country and offers a “one-of-a-kind professional learning and development experience.” The other finalists are from Connecticut, Illinois, Oklahoma, and the District of Columbia. The 2023 National Teacher of the Year will be announced later this spring.

The National Teacher of the Year is awarded each year by The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), a national education non-profit that represents all 58 leaders of K-12 education in every state, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, Bureau of Indian Education and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO's National Teacher of the Year Program is the most prestigious teacher recognition program in the country. The winner has been recognized by the White House every spring since 1952 (excepting 2020, due to COVID-19).

With characteristic qĩñuiññiq (humility), Harvey says, "I hope I can represent our region and state well."

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