

a classroom environment that best fits their academic strengths.

Danielle is a biomedical and marine science teacher at Crystal River High School, where she has taught for her entire 8-year teaching career. She is also the link crew coordinator at the school, focusing on building senior and junior level students into leaders who mentor each year's incoming freshmen class.

I extend my best wishes to Danielle for her work as a teacher and look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TUCKER DUCLOS

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Tucker Duclos, the Dixie County Teacher of the Year from Dixie County High School in Cross City, FL.

Tucker first developed his passion for teaching when he moved to Prague and worked as a full-time English teacher at a private school. Upon his return to the United States, he enrolled in a 1-year teacher certification program at Providence College.

While at the college, Tucker assumed full responsibilities as the cooperating teacher for four English classes across the 9th and 11th grades, as well as 20 hours of student teaching in a high-poverty and urban school. Afterwards, the Interstate Reciprocity Agreement between Florida and Rhode Island enabled him to receive his Florida Professional Educator's Certificate to teach in the State of Florida.

Since 2016, Tucker has taught 11th grade English and AP literature at Dixie County High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in English writing and literature from Emmanuel College in Boston, MA.

I extend my best wishes to Tucker for his dedication to his students and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DANNY ERB

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Danny Erb, the St. Johns County Teacher of the Year from Pedro Menendez High School in St. Augustine, FL.

Danny enjoys teaching math, where he works hard to ensure that his students develop confidence in their problem-solving ability. He attempts to make math fun and empowers his students to view math in a different light.

Danny has taught at Pedro Menendez High School since 2015. He earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He taught at Green Run High School for 14 years after moving back to his hometown of Virginia Beach in 2001. He moved to Florida in pursuit of a career as an engineer with NASA, knowing he would never regret taking the opportunity. The experience is used as a reminder for his students to pursue their dreams.

I offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Danny for his tireless work

to help his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DAKEYAN GRAHAM

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Dakeyan Graham, the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year from C. Leon King High School in Tampa, FL.

Dakeyan teaches his students more than just academic skills; he teaches patience and kindness. He considers this to be incredibly beneficial to his student's success in life and in school. Dakeyan first began his musical career as a saxophonist at King High School and views his return as its band director the full circle to his musical career. In addition to teaching, he serves as president of the Hillsborough County Secondary Music Council and authored a high school African-American heritage curriculum for secondary music.

Dakeyan received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida, where he was part of an honors music fraternity and the Fighting Gators marching band. He returned to his hometown of Tampa to begin his teaching career and earned his doctor of philosophy degree from the University of South Florida.

As a proud Gator myself, I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dakeyan for his dedication to music and his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA GREEN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Andrea Green, the Charlotte County Teacher of the Year from Lemon Bay High School in Englewood, FL.

Andrea credits her success in education to collaboration with her past and present colleagues and from the support of her husband, family, and friends. Her professional goal is to help all students find success in science and cultivate an appreciation for knowledge learned throughout their educational career.

Outside of her classroom, Andrea sponsors the school's environmental club, where interested students gather to discuss environmental issues affecting Florida. She is also a member of the Lemon Bay Literacy Council and an active participant in the school's science professional learning community.

Andrea has taught in Charlotte County Public Schools since 1999. She teaches Advanced Placement environmental science, honors anatomy and physiology, and environmental science. She received her master of arts degree in global sustainability from the University of South Florida.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Andrea for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA HALL

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor Sara Hall, the Hardee County Teacher of the Year from Hardee Junior High School in Wauchula, FL.

Sara's colleagues and students describe her as an inspiring teacher dedicated to ensuring her students have the opportunity to learn. She loves teaching her students English and being a part of their excitement when they realize how much they learned throughout the year.

Sara Hall is a sixth grade English language arts teacher at Hardee Junior High School. In addition to her writing, she helped to start the Just Us Girls, an extracurricular group for young women that targets areas where junior high girls struggle.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Sara for her dedication to her students. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO DAWN HENDERSON

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Dawn Henderson, the Highlands County Teacher of the Year from Avon Park High School in Avon Park, FL.

Dawn received this award at the Summit Awards ceremony held at her school. Her colleagues note that she dedicates herself to teaching her students, believing that education is the key to changing their mindset, and opens doors for their future success. Parents of her students say she is willing to meet with them at any time, before or after school, to discuss any concerns they may have.

Dawn has worked at Avon Park High School since the beginning of her teaching career in 2004. She currently serves as an advancement via individual determination coordinator.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dawn for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO JADE OSCEOLA

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jade Osceola, the Glades County Teacher of the Year from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Okeechobee, FL. Pemayetv Emahakv means "Our Way" in Creek, the native tongue of Florida's Seminole Indian Tribe.

Jade strives to teach her students about their identities as Native Americans and encourages them to practice communicating with each other in the Muscogee "Creek" language. She knows her students want to understand their heritage, and she believes learning about their ancestors' native language is a key to their identity. She works each day to help preserve the Seminole Tribe of Florida's cultures and traditions.

As a student at Seminole Elementary School in the 1990's, Jade participated in a weekly culture class on the Brighton Reservation to learn about Seminole history. This was her favorite class and served as an inspiration for her continued learning of Native American affairs.

Like her students, Jade is a second language learner of Creek. She believes teaching the language to her students is very important, as there are only 33 speakers of the language left in the region. She is dedicated to doing everything she can to keep the language alive for future generations.

Jade teaches Creek 1 and 2 at Pemayetv Emahavv Charter School to seventh and eighth grade students. She graduated from Edison College in 2004 and was offered a job teaching Seminole history. The weekly program helped the creation of the charter school in 2007, where Jade taught Seminole history until 2015.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Jade for her dedication to her students and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BECKY PELTONEN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Becky Peltonen, the Bay County Teacher of the year from Deane Bozeman School in Panama City, Florida, FL.

Becky received this award months after Hurricane Michael devastated Bay County, which caused several hurricane-related delays throughout the school district. She was honored and humbled to represent all who have worked to repair homes and begin rebuilding the Bay County community.

Becky is an agriculture biotechnology teacher who has taught for 29 years. She has teamed up with parents and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a scientific exploration of animal and plant ecosystems, which has allowed for students to construct their own freshwater habitats.

Becky focuses on teaching students how to raise and grow their own food, which provides them meaningful tools and allows them to save money at the grocery. Becky takes pride when former students return to tell her that she better-equipped them to navigate life after their class together.

I thank Becky for her hard work in educating students, especially while facing the aftermath of Hurricane Michael's life-changing effects. I wish her the very best in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN PIGOTT

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor Justin Pigott, the Martin County Teacher of the Year from Jensen Beach High School in Jensen Beach, FL.

Justin works to ensure his classroom is a positive environment for his stu-

dents. He wants each student to feel they are accepted, heard, and supported while in school. Justin memorizes the names of each student prior to their first day of class to ensure they know they matter to him.

Justin is an Advanced Placement calculus teacher at Jensen Beach High School and has taught for 16 years, the last in the Martin County School District. He also works as a student mentor at Indian River State College's Take Stock in Children scholarship program, assists students with SAT and ACT test preparation, and served as a sponsor for his school's math honor society.

I would like to thank Justin for the good work he has done for his students over the years. I wish all the best to him, and look forward to learning of his continued success in coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO SHANE SWEZEY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Shane Swezey, the Sarasota County Teacher of the Year from Oak Park School in Sarasota, FL.

Shane received this award at the Education Foundation of Sarasota County's Ignite Education Awards Celebration in front of a crowd of more than 300 people. Shane provides music education and therapy services to students at Oak Park School, the district's center school for special needs. He is a staunch advocate for students with special needs, preferring to focus on the abilities of his students, rather than dwell on their disabilities. He views music as an engaging, motivating, and accessible medium to support his students' academic goals.

Shane's colleagues note he uses creative teaching methods to engage his students and build trust with them. He plays songs and sings with his students to cue certain words from them. When a student says the word in question, his attempt is successful, and this is part of what makes his job so worthwhile to him.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shane for his tireless work to help teach his students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA WOOD

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jessica Wood, the Monroe County Teacher of the Year from Key West High School in Key West, FL.

Jessica teaches Advanced Placement biology and biology and is the science department chair. Her work has an impact on the entire school as she leads the school's recycling club efforts and serves as a sponsor for Keys to Be the Change, a school club focused on developing student character through service.

Jessica also works with members of outside agencies to read to younger students and promote substance abuse prevention outreach throughout the

community. The main thing that inspires Jessica as an educator is the ability to effect positive change on her students by serving as a role model and to continue learning herself.

Jessica is active in her field, working on her pedagogy and assisting others. She has held numerous professional development trainings at her school and throughout the school district. She has been a part of the STEM fair and is also a member of the building level planning team.

I extend my best wishes to Jessica for her work as a teacher and look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. ALTENKIRCH

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to commend Dr. Robert Altenkirch for his leadership at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Altenkirch led the university as president from 2011 to 2019. While serving in this capacity, he implemented many strategic growth initiatives and promoted economic development throughout the campus and the city of Huntsville, AL.

Under Dr. Altenkirch's leadership, UAH provided assistance in recruiting numerous corporations to north Alabama. Those corporations include Blue Origin, Aerojet, Rocketdyne, GE Aviation, and Polaris. He also spearheaded the purchase of a 58-acre business park that is adjacent to the campus and serves as a town center for the students and faculty.

Continuing to add to his legacy, Dr. Altenkirch established the D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation business incubator. This regional initiative fosters, promotes, and accelerates the commercialization of technology-based ventures through incubation, co-working, mentorship, funding, and strategic support.

Not only did Dr. Altenkirch expand the university physically and economically, but he also contributed to the university's growth in total enrollment over the past 5 years. By the fall of 2019, the enrollment at UAH skyrocketed by more than 10,000 students. The average ACT score for incoming freshman reached an alltime record high at the university under Dr. Altenkirch. By fall 2018, the average score was 28.5, which is the highest among the State of Alabama's public universities.

Studying mechanical engineering, Dr. Altenkirch earned a B.S. from Purdue University, an M.S. from the University of California, Berkley, and a Ph.D. from Purdue. He was recognized as one of the 101 Most Influential People in the State of New Jersey in 2009, as Dr. Altenkirch served as the president of New Jersey Institute of Technology for 9 years prior to his tenure at UAH.

Dr. Altenkirch deserves the highest recognition for his outstanding leadership at the University of Alabama in