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## Area educators winners of annual Distinguished Educator Awards

May 12, 2021

Western Kentucky University has announced the winners of the second annual Distinguished Educator Awards.

Each award celebrates the individual and significant contributions educators make to the teaching profession. From elementary education to teacher mentorship, WKU recognized the following area P-12 educators based on their inspiring and specialized solutions in the classroom:

Secondary (9-12): Chris Thomas, LaRue County High

Innovation: Rachel Smith, Hodgenville Elementary

Teacher Mentor: Chelsie Walsh, LaRue County Middle

While classic award ceremonies still are discouraged by the Centers for Disease Control to prevent the spread of COVID-19 the university's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences ensured winning teachers had a memorable recognition after a year of non-traditional instruction and hybrid learning.

College leadership paid a surprise visit to each winner at their school, where they were presented with a \$200 cash prize and a commemorative plaque. Additionally, WKU will feature a perpetual plaque in Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame honoring winners for years to come.

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