

MAR 29 2011



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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04333-0023

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

Stephen L. Bowen  
COMMISSIONER

March 24, 2011

Ingrid Stressenger  
82 Fowler Road  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Dear Ingrid,

I wish you my warmest congratulations on being named as one of the six semi-finalists for 2012 Maine Teacher of the Year. This is a high honor of which you should be truly proud.

A panel of teachers, school administrators, educational organizations and business people has scored your application packet. This was an exceedingly difficult decision for the application review panel since all ten of this year's nominees were outstanding candidates. The nominee application pool was very diverse and included a broad spectrum of educational experience. The list of semi-finalists is enclosed.

Every day while modeling the Guiding Principles of the Maine *Learning Results* for your students and school, you demonstrate that you are an effective communicator, a self-directed and life-long learner, a creative problem solver, a responsible citizen, a collaborative worker, and an integrative thinker. You inspire your colleagues to become better teachers and your students to become better learners.

As one student put it, "I admire a teacher most when the bell at the end of the class is met by a chorus of disappointed sighs."

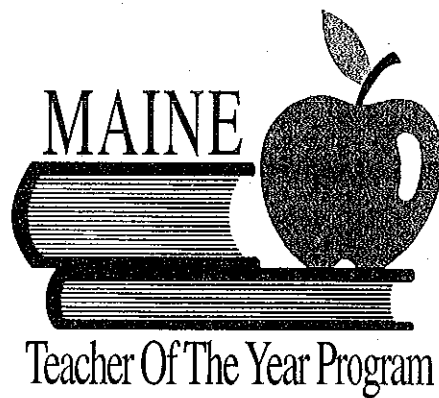
I know that the entire staff of the Maine Department of Education joins me in wishing you the very best in the noblest of all professions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Bowen".

Stephen L. Bowen  
Commissioner of Education

cc.: Kenneth Murphy, Superintendent  
Thomas Eismeier, Principal



March 24, 2011

Ingrid Stressenger  
82 Fowler Road  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Dear Ingrid,

Congratulations on being named as one of the six semi-finalists for 2012 Maine Teacher of the Year.

The second phase in the selection process consists of school site visits, developing a professional portfolio, and preparing an oral presentation. The scores from these three activities will be averaged and the three highest scorers will be named state finalists in late summer.

Beginning next week, I will get in touch with your building principal to begin preparations for the school site visit. They, or their designee, should arrange the whole day. There is a sample itinerary and the scoring rubric for the site visit day in the 2012 Process Guidelines document at <http://www.maine.gov/education/toy/index.html>.

Understandably, the next few months will seem overwhelming at times. To help ease this pressure and answer your questions, several former Teachers of the Year have volunteered to act as mentors. Please let me know if you would like me to arrange a mentor for you. Also, I am here to assist you in whatever way I can during the selection process. You can reach me by phone at 624-6638 or via e-mail at [jennifer.pooler@maine.gov](mailto:jennifer.pooler@maine.gov).

Sincerely,

Jennifer G. Pooler  
Teacher of the Year Coordinator

cc.: Kenneth Murphy, Superintendent  
Thomas Eismeier, Principal

*2012 Maine Teacher of the Year*

*Semi-finalists*

**Tim Eisenhart**, Westbrook High School  
Grade 9 Mathematics

**Paige Fournier**, Lyman Moore Middle School, Portland  
Grades 6-8 Functional Life Skills

**Alana Margeson**, Caribou High School  
Grades 10-11 English

**Jolene Randall**, Tripp Middle School, Turner  
Grades 7-8 Reading/Literacy Interventionist

**Meghan Schall**, George B. Weatherbee School, Hampden  
Grade 4

**Ingrid Stressenger**, Pond Cove Elementary School, Cape Elizabeth  
Grade 4