



Commissioner Roger Sampson
Department of Education
& Early Development
801 W. Tenth Street, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1894
www.eed.state.ak.us

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More information: Helen Mehrkens, 465-8730; Eric Fry, Information Officer, 465-2810

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Finalists to Compete for 2006 Alaska Teacher of the Year Honor

Commissioner of Education & Early Development Roger Sampson has named four finalists for the 2006 Alaska Teacher of the Year honor. They are:

- **Linda Julliard** – a third- and fourth-grade teacher at Aquarian Charter School in Anchorage with 13 years of teaching experience.
- **Vivian Meyer** – a combined elementary teacher in the Skagway City Schools with 18 years of teaching experience.
- **Mark Robinson** – a seventh- through 12th-grade choir teacher at Homer High School with 20 years of teaching experience.
- **Arlene Sandberg** – a kindergarten through sixth-grade English as a Second Language resource teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Anchorage with 26 years of teaching experience.

A screening committee appointed by Commissioner Sampson recommended the finalists from a field of applicants submitted by school superintendents and school district selection committees. The committees typically consist of parents, school administrators, teachers, students, and business and other community leaders. School district selection committees are not limited to the number of applications they can submit to the Alaska Teacher of the Year Program. Any person in the community may submit an application to the committee. The application of each Teacher of the Year nominee must be signed and approved by the applicant's school superintendent and principal.

Commissioner Sampson will invite a statewide team consisting of elected presidents of major parent and education associations to select one of the finalists as 2006 Alaska Teacher of the Year and one as Alternate Teacher of the Year. The selection committee will review each of the applications, view a video of each finalist in an actual classroom-teaching situation and interview each teacher. The selection committee will meet in late October. The winner will be named in November.

Alaska's 2005 Teacher of the Year is **Ronnie Stanford**, a music teacher at Barrow High School in the North Slope Borough School District.

In November, Commissioner Sampson will forward the name of the Alaska Teacher of the Year to the National Teacher of the Year competition based in Washington, D.C.

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