



For Immediate Release
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Gulf Coast Educators FCU Awards 2024 Appreciated Teachers of the Year



*Gulf Coast Educators FCU's 2024 Appreciated Teacher of the Year Recipient, Arissa Hayden
Pictured (Left to Right): Superintendent Dr. Demetrius McCall, Carroll Elementary Principal Dr. Veronica Garza,
Caylee Smith, Arissa Hayden, Jessica Rodriguez, Kayce Barajas, and Assistant Principal Christopher Carter.*

Pasadena, TX, May 17, 2024: Every year, Gulf Coast Educators FCU recognizes five educators in the state of Texas for going above and beyond their job duties with the Appreciated Teacher of the Year award. Individuals may nominate an influential educator, and five finalists are selected from all nominations received.

Gulf Coast Educators FCU started the Appreciated Teacher Award program in 2012 to help honor the work of dedicated educators who make a difference in our community. The finalists are announced each year during Teacher Appreciation Week, when the public votes on their choice for Appreciated Teacher of the Year.

For the 2024 Appreciated Teacher Awards, GCEFCU received hundreds of nominations from over 108 different school districts across the state of Texas. A committee composed of credit union team members selected five finalists from all the nominations received, who are listed below:

Amberlee Whitted – Cleveland ISD
Arissa Hayden – Sheldon ISD
Cinthya Bustamante Ramirez – Spring ISD
Paola Beltran – Humble ISD
Sabrina Bertrand – La Porte ISD



Once the finalists were announced, the public was able to vote for their top choice for 2024 Appreciated Teacher of the Year. With 1,636 total votes, Ms. Arissa Hayden from Sheldon ISD was named Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union's 2024 Appreciated Teacher of the Year and recipient of \$2,500. The remaining finalists received a \$500 honorarium.

"I love Ms. Hayden because she helps us out with a lot of stuff. She's really nice and helpful, and I thank her for that," said one of her students.

Gulf Coast Educators would like to congratulate all educators who were nominated. Thank you for going above and beyond the call of duty and making a difference in your students' lives.

About Gulf Coast Educators FCU: In 1948, eleven Pasadena ISD educators got together and formed what today remains a credit union dedicated to serving the financial needs of school employees in the state of Texas. The credit union offers its member-owners a full line of banking services, but through a cooperative ownership structure. To learn more about the credit union, visit www.gcefcu.org.