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**PRESS RELEASE**

**NYS PTA Congratulates 2018 Teacher of the Year**

September 12, 2017 (Albany) - NYS PTA congratulates Brockport School District teacher Christopher Albrecht on being named the New York State 2018 Teacher of the Year at today's Board of Regents meeting.

Mr. Albrecht, an educator for more than 20 years, is a fourth-grade teacher at the Fred W. Hill School in Brockport and has served in this role for the past 14 years.

"We congratulate Mr. Albrecht on this prestigious achievement, and we are honored to be a part of the Teacher of the Year committee," offered Gracemarie Rozea, NYS PTA President. "Our teachers and related professionals support our children and families each and every day, and its teachers like Mr. Albrecht that advance the love of learning for all."

Mr. Albrecht's achievements are significant in education:

- Created one of the first technology curriculums
- 20 years of service on his district's English Language Arts curriculum development committee
- Founded his school's spelling bee and yearbook committee
- Mentors student teachers and first-year teachers
- Coached both high school baseball and soccer
- Created an after school program focusing on building self confidence for children with special needs
- Board of Trustees member for the Western Monroe Historical Society, the Clarkson Historical Society, and the YMCA Camp Cory Board

"Teachers and families are partners in supporting children, and we thank Mr. Albrecht for his years of commitment to the students and families in his district. He embarks on a great journey, serving as teacher ambassador for New York, and NYS PTA could not be more supportive of his work and this journey," added Executive Director Kyle Belokopitsky.

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"We wish Mr. Albrecht and the other Teacher of the Year finalists continued success in their profession," added Catherine Romano, NYS PTA Education Coordinator. "The "T" is PTA matters to us, and we look forward to working together to make every child's potential a reality."

Finalists for the 2018 New York State Teacher of the Year include:

- Brian Sztabnik, an English and Advanced Placement Literature and Composition teacher at Miller Place High School in the Miller Place Union Free School District;
- Rosa Ismail, an English as a New Language teacher for Kindergarten through 3rd grade students at Fort Salonga Elementary School in the Kings Park School District;
- Mary Howard, an English Language Arts and social studies teacher at Veronica E. Connor Middle School in the Grand Island Central School District; and
- Christina Pawlowski, a New York State Master Teacher who teaches Advanced Placement and college level mathematics at Commack High School in the Commack School District.

The NYS Teacher of the Year traditionally addresses the Annual Convention of NYS PTA in the year of their service.