

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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**Anchorage Educator Danielle Riha
Named Finalist for National Teacher of the Year**

JUNEAU -- Today, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) announced that Danielle Riha (REE-YA), an educator at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School in Anchorage and the 2019 Alaska Teacher of the Year, has been selected as one of four finalists for the 2019 National Teacher of the Year.

"I am truly humbled by this recognition and am grateful to the amazing people who have taught me cultural and educational values and techniques," said Ms. Riha. "I am excited to use this opportunity to inspire and engage all stakeholders to work together to promote and support each other; be culturally responsive, creative, and relevant; and make our schools and communities full of passionate learning."

"On behalf of all Alaskans, I want to congratulate Ms. Riha on this extraordinary recognition," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. "Ms. Riha is a powerful advocate for both her students and her community, and an inspiring example of an educator making a positive difference in the lives of students."

This is the seventh time an Alaskan teacher has been a finalist for National Teacher of the Year. To date, only one Alaskan teacher has been named National Teacher of the Year. Elaine Griffin of Kodiak was selected as the National Teacher of the Year in 1995. For more information visit [Alaska's Teacher of the Year program](#) website.

The National Teacher of the Year program is run by CCSSO. One of the four finalists will be named the 2019 National Teacher of the Year this spring, and will spend the next year traveling the country to represent educators and advocate on behalf of teachers and students. Additional information can be found on CCSSO's [National Teacher of the Year program](#) website.

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