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## ***Media Release***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Layna Kemp is named 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year**

LaGrange, GA., March 22, 2023 – The Troup County School System is pleased to announce Layna Kemp as the 2023-2024 system Teacher of the Year.

Kemp is a 2nd-grade teacher of all subjects at Long Cane Elementary School. Dr. Brian Shumate, Superintendent of TCSS, announced Kemp as the system TOTY during a reception at the Del'avant Event Center Wednesday evening.

Kemp is a graduate of Point University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. She also has a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from LaGrange College. Kemp has been a teacher at LCES since 2015.

The other TOTY finalists were:

Middle School Teacher of the Year

- Debbie Cox - 7th Grade Life Science Teacher at Gardner Newman Middle

High School Teacher of the Year - *There was a tie this year.*

- Laura Lee Pike: 9th Grade World Literature, American Literature, and British Literature at the Troup County Career Center
- Dr. Zelda Kitt: 9-12th Grade English/Language Arts at The Hope Academy

A panel of judges reads and scores the finalists' essays and applications, including a taped interview and classroom observation showing them teaching a lesson through a 20-minute recorded video. This year, we had four judges, anonymous to each other, to decide our Teacher of the Year. The judges who are at various levels in their educational career are all outside of the Troup County School System.

In addition to being named the TCSS Teacher of the Year, if she chooses, Layna Kemp will represent the Troup County School System in the State Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education.

Congratulations, Layna!

## **About Troup County School System**

Troup County School System is an accredited educational system with over 12,200 students in grades K-12. TCSS does offer a free Pre-K program at each elementary school. The system is comprised of eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, one college and career academy, and one alternative learning center. Students within the school system are taught a rigorous and relevant curriculum that helps them make college and career choices beyond graduation. The system 2022 graduation rate is 85.9 percent. To learn more about Troup County School System, visit [troup.org](http://troup.org) and the Troup County School System Facebook page.

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