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**Press Release**

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## **USDA Under Secretary Honors DCSD Ag in Classroom Teacher**

Pioneer Elementary School teacher Susan Irwin has been named the Agriculture in the Classroom's Outstanding Teacher Award recipient from the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture (CFA). This prestigious award recognizes Irwin's exceptional efforts in integrating agriculture into her classroom curriculum, fostering agricultural literacy, and inspiring students to become conscientious contributors to a sustainable global society.

The award was presented during a visit by the United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt to Colorado to encourage producers to apply for the next round of funding of the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG). During the event, CFA unveiled the 2024 project sponsored with funds from the SCBG: a book titled "Seed, Sprout, Spice! All About Pueblo Chiles." CFA is one of the 12 projects receiving funding from the SCBG program for the 2024 growing season.

"It was a pleasure to be in Colorado to see the state's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program in action. The program has made significant impacts for the state's specialty crops producers and businesses through the many education, marketing, and research projects it funds," said Moffitt. "I was also eager to meet with Colorado's specialty crops industry stakeholders to learn how USDA can better support their needs as part of USDA's Specialty Crop Competitiveness Initiative, and I extend appreciation to the producers I met with for sharing their thoughts with me. Your insights will help all of us at USDA to ensure you and producers nationwide have the resources to remain competitive in markets across the world."

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### ***About DCSD***

Douglas County School District is Colorado's third largest school district and serves 63,000 students. Learn more at [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org).