



The NH State Selection Committee for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) has selected Souhegan teacher Jennifer Deenik as a State-level finalist for grade 7-12 teachers of science. This award is the highest recognition that a math or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Awardees are recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. In addition to honoring individual achievement, the goal of the award program is to exemplify the highest standards of mathematics and science teaching. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of math and science education. Since the program's inception in 1983, more than 3900 teachers have been recognized.

Jenny Deenik served as a UNH graduate intern during the 1996-97 school year, before being hired to teach on an interdisciplinary, heterogeneous 10th grade team. Jenny's course, Living Systems Science, introduces students to biological principles and concepts, in response to the course's essential question, "How is life understood by the scientific community?"

The National Science Foundation will now convene a national selection committee composed of prominent mathematicians, scientists, educators, and past awardees. This panel will submit the name of one single finalist in each category from each state to President Barack Obama. The teachers chosen to be Presidential Awardees will be notified by The White House and will receive \$10,000 and be honored at various state and national ceremonies.

The State of New Hampshire will hold a Recognition Dinner in December to honor Jennifer's outstanding contributions as a teacher of science.