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Sarah Baird will be Recognized as One of the Nation's Top Teachers

WASHINGTON, DC (September 29, 2009) – Sarah Baird, a math coach at Kyrene del Milenio and Kyrene del Cielo Elementary Schools in Phoenix, Ariz. is one of five national finalists for *The NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence*. Baird will be recognized as one of the nation's top educators at the Foundation's *Salute to Excellence in Education* awards gala on Feb. 12, 2010 in Washington, DC.

The national winner will be announced at the gala and will receive *The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence* and \$25,000. The four other finalists will each be awarded *The Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence* and \$10,000.

The finalists were selected from 38 public school educators nominated by their peers. Baird was nominated by the Arizona Education Association, the state's National Education Association affiliate.

The four other finalists are:

Katherine Bishop, a special education teacher at Lake Park Elementary School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Sharon Gallagher-Fishbaugh, a second grade teacher at Dilworth Elementary School in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tim McCollum, an eighth grade science teacher at Charleston Middle School in Charleston, Illinois.

Bob Williams, a high school math teacher at Colony High School in Palmer, Alaska.