

Teacher of the Year (TOY) biographies provided by the Office of Public Instruction

2022 TOY Bill Stockton: “Hello everyone, my name is Bill Stockton. This is my 14th year teaching and my 12th year teaching at Arlee High School. I love teaching science, engaging my students in critical thinking, and creating lifelong learners. I really have enjoyed my time at AHS. I'm really honored to be recognized as the 2022 teacher of the year. There's been a lot of great teachers in my life, and I owe this to them.

My education started with growing up in central Idaho. After graduating high school, I moved to Montana to attend the University of Montana in Missoula. I received a BA in Biology from the University of Montana and then later a MS in Science Education from Montana State University. Recently I was a recipient of the 2020 Teresa Veltkamp Advocacy Award for Excellence in Indian Education for All, from Montana's Office of Public Instruction.

Along with teaching at Arlee High School, I have taught five years for Montana Digital Academy and have been actively engaged in teacher professional development.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy exploring Montana while camping, boating, and hiking. I also enjoy sports, playing video games, going to concerts, and spending time with my family and friends.”

2021 TOY Kristi Borge: Kristi Lynn Borge is a multi-grade elementary teacher in rural Polaris, Montana. A fourth-generation Montanan, Borge has taught students from kindergarten through eighth grade in every content area.

At Polaris School, Borge is the only full-time staff member and teaches several grade levels at once, including students who are siblings. Like other one-room school-teachers, Borge juggles several roles; administrator, librarian, school lawn care and snow removal enthusiast, and helps coordinate extracurricular activities such as the rural school science fair, basketball league, and track meet. Borge earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a minor in K-12 Reading from Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman.

A travel enthusiast, Borge volunteered as teacher-leader for People to People Student Ambassadors, enabling her to tour Europe and Australia with high school students; she also served as a volunteer English teacher in Cambodia. After teaching for four years at the middle school level in Bozeman, Borge obtained her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from MSU. She is passionate about best practice for instructional planning to meet the needs of diverse learners.

In addition to teaching, Borge is an alpine ski racing coach in the winter months, and a science camp instructor at the Montana Learning Center in the summer. Borge and her husband Erik are also owner-operators of Maverick Mountain, a small community ski area in Polaris.

2019 TOY Dylan Huisken: Dylan Huisken is the 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year and teaches middle school social studies in Bonner, MT. His passions include place-based education, Indian Education for All, and making sure all students are empowered with the skills of a philosopher, historian, and citizen.

Dylan remembers the first teacher who taught him how to turn knowledge into action, struggles into skills, questions into insight, and a blank page into art. To a struggling reader, this was everything. That

feeling of empowerment—the feeling that drove Huisken to pursue a degree in history and education—is the same feeling that he wants his students at Bonner Middle School to feel daily. Huisken has been teaching history for ten years, with his last five at Bonner Middle School.

He began his career as a social studies teacher on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where he worked for three years before moving to Missoula to earn his Master of Arts in History from the University of Montana. While at the University of Montana, Huisken taught American and Western history as a teaching assistant and also authored a thesis on the appropriation of the Dakota language by missionaries who sought to assimilate native students. Huisken earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from South Dakota State University, where he also minored in Spanish.

In addition to teaching, Huisken helps coach quiz bowl students, advises the school's student council, and helps families organize fundraisers for the 8th grade's annual field trip to Washington, DC. Although Huisken teaches eras from the Stone Age to the late 1800s, his biggest passions in the field are Native American history and the abolitionist movement. Favorite subjects aside, Huisken's biggest passion is fostering a love for history in his students by helping them feel welcomed, curious, and empowered.