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## United Way of Acadiana Announces 2024 Teacher Awards Finalists

**Lafayette, LA** — United Way of Acadiana is excited to announce finalists for the 2024 Teacher Awards presented by Love Our Schools. With nearly 5,000 nominations this year in Lafayette Parish, a selection committee chose educators and support staff who stood out among the rest. Nominations are separated into elementary school, middle school, high school, and inspirational categories. This year, the inspirational category expanded to include nominations for educational support staff.

The 2024 Teacher Award finalists announced today are:

### Elementary School Category:

- Hannah Briggs – J. Wallace James Elementary School
- Alyse Etie – St. Cecilia Catholic School
- Beth Bolinger – Woodvale Elementary School
- Raegan Abshire – Prairie Elementary School

### Middle School Category:

- Garrison Turner – L.J. Alleman Middle School
- Hailey Gauthier – Edgar Martin Middle School
- Maya Harness – Paul Breaux Middle School
- Brian Langlinois – Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School

### High School Category:

- Jill Ardoin – St. Thomas Moore Catholic School
- Dixie Gaspard – Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy
- D'yonne Jones – Carencro High School
- Melanie Lowry – Lafayette High School

### Inspirational Category:

- Linda Robin – Acadiana High School
- Kelly Brandt – Lafayette High School
- Asia Freeman – Lerosen Preparatory School
- Paula Graffeo – J. Wallace James Elementary School



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On Friday, March 1, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. United Way of Acadiana will celebrate nominees and recognize finalists at the final UL men's basketball game of the season team during the half-time presentation against Southern Miss. After halftime, the winner of each category will formally be announced to the crowds.

United Way of Acadiana has reimagined this annual celebration. By shifting from a formal awards program to a more casual and family-friendly event at a larger venue, this will encourage more community spirit and participation. A basketball game is a family-friendly, energetic place for fans to show how important educators are to the community. Get ready for a fun night to cheer, show your spirit, and celebrate our educators.

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### **About United Way of Acadiana**

United Way of Acadiana fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. United Way envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives. We win by LIVING UNITED. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against their community's most daunting social crises. For more information, visit [www.unitedwayofacadiana.org](http://www.unitedwayofacadiana.org) and follow United Way of Acadiana on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram.