

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 8, 2014

### **Gallatin Gateway School Teacher Wins Presidential Award for Excellence**

GALLATIN GATEWAY – Elizabeth Matthews has been selected as the winner of Montana’s Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The National Science Foundation selected Mrs. Matthews from a pool of state-level finalists to win this prestigious award in the Science content area.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. The winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates between teachers teaching kindergarten through 6th grade and those teaching 7th through 12th grades. The 2012 awardees named this year teach kindergarten through 6th grade.

Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also are invited to Washington, DC, for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and the Administration.

Mrs. Matthews enriches the science program at Gallatin Gateway School in a number of ways. Three years ago, she was involved in a major astronomy grant in which she guided students through a series of light and astronomy labs, collected data to determine student achievement, and provided input to NASA as to how they might improve their education program. Two years ago, she participated in a STEM grant in which she facilitated a professional learning community of teachers in the local school area. Currently she is completing a five-year grant in examining the effects of mathematics coaching on student achievement. Mrs. Matthews also supervises and guides sixth graders each year on their week-long field trip to Yellowstone National Park.

“These teachers are inspiring today’s young students to become the next generation of American scientists, mathematicians, and innovators,” President Obama said. “Through their passion and dedication, and by sharing their excitement about science, technology, engineering, and math, they are helping us build a promising future for all our children.” Congratulations to Mrs. Matthews for winning this exciting national award.

For more information about the award, please contact:

Kim DeBruycker, Principal  
[DeBruycker@gallatingatewayschool.com](mailto:DeBruycker@gallatingatewayschool.com)  
406-763-4415, ext. 13

or

Elizabeth Matthews  
[Matthews@gallatingatewayschool.com](mailto:Matthews@gallatingatewayschool.com)  
406-763-4415, ext. 16

###