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Essex High School Teacher Named 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year

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Barre, VT. – The Vermont Agency of Education today honored Linda Cloutier-Namdar, M.Ed., an Essex High School (EHS) English teacher, as the 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year during the 2017 University of Vermont (UVM) Outstanding Teacher Day event.

Also recognized were:

- 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year Alternate **Sara Doncaster, M.F.A.**, Music Director at Lake Region Union High School in Barton, Vermont; and
- 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year Distinguished Finalist **Karen Greene, M.A.T.** an English teacher at Middlebury Union High School.

Cloutier-Namdar has been a teacher in the 9th Grade Core since its inception at EHS, and has also served as a mentor teacher. She is currently a class advisor at EHS, a Flynn Theater Teacher Leader, and a writer for the Essex Westford Education Association. In addition to her work on a wide range of school committees, she has taken part in school literacy initiatives, and is a member of the English/Language Arts (ELA) Vertical Team for the district. Cloutier-Namdar piloted and helped to edit an ELA Transferable Skills Task, working with staff from the Great Schools Partnership and the Vermont Agency of Education. A member of the Vermont Writing Collaborative (VWC), she has presented workshops at VWC Summer Institutes, and co-presented a workshop at the 2017 New England Secondary School Consortium School Redesign in Action event.

As a graduate of UVM and St. Michael's College, she counts herself fortunate indeed to be a Vermont teacher. Cloutier-Namdar's tenure as 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year will begin January 1, 2018.

"This honor is a tribute to all Vermont teachers, who daily model responsible and involved citizenship, while working to uphold the democratic ideal of a public education available to all. Kudos to my creative and caring colleagues who instruct, support and inspire the students entrusted in their care," said Cloutier-Namdar.

Essex Westford School District Superintendent Beth Cobb stated, "Linda Cloutier-Namdar is a superhero. We are very proud of her. I guarantee Linda will represent Vermont educators well as she fulfills the duties that come with this great honor."

As the 2018 Vermont Teacher of the Year, Cloutier-Namdar will travel statewide visiting schools and working with teachers. She is also Vermont's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year award, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers. Cloutier-Namdar will travel to Washington, D.C. next spring for a reception at the White House, where she will meet the President.

Since 1964, the Agency of Education has had the honor of recognizing outstanding Vermont teachers. Learn more about the [Vermont Teacher of the Year program](#).

For more information about the program and Vermont's selection, contact Rebecca Gile at (802) 479-1718.

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