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Turpin Educator Named Hixson Teacher of the Year

(CINCINNATI; October 18, 2019) – Melissa Sand, an Art Teacher at Turpin High School in the Forest Hills School District, has been selected as the Hixson Architecture, Engineering, Interiors “Teacher of the Year” for the 2018-2019 school year. The award was presented Thursday night to Sand at a ceremony honoring her and the other finalists at Hixson’s offices in Mt. Adams.

Through the program, which originated in 1991 as a way for Hixson to honor the outstanding work teachers do to educate the next generation, Hixson associates are encouraged to nominate a teacher of one of their children or grandchildren. Sand was nominated by Scott McGlamery, whose daughter was in Sand’s classroom during the 2018-2019 school year. Since the program’s inception, Hixson has awarded more than \$140,000 to outstanding local teachers.

In her application for the Hixson award, Sand, a teacher with 17 years of experience, documented that she wanted to be a teacher from an early age and that she found her inspiration from role models like her parents, as well as her own teachers during her youth. “These exceptional role models have undoubtedly guided my own work to craft a classroom and curriculum where students know they are safe, supported, and encouraged to find confidence in their learning process and expression.”

Ms. Sand’s specialty is in the field of Digital Imaging. “When I first started teaching Digital Imaging, few resources existed for curriculum, training, or modifying strategies for learners,” said Sand. “Through work with many colleagues, independent research and professional development in an ever-evolving field, and advocating for my students, I have been able to continuously advance the Digital Imaging experiences available to my students.”

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Ms. Sand's drive to advocate for her students was also noted by Turpin Principal David A. Spencer. "Ms. Sand is a tremendous educator always doing her best for her students," said Spencer. "I cannot think of a better recipient for the Hixson Teacher of the Year award." Hixson's McGlamery echoed Spencer's sentiments, saying, "Ms. Sand goes above and beyond for her students and is a shining light in the Turpin community."

A resident of Norwood, Ohio, Sand holds a B.A. Art from Xavier University and a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Art from Mt. St. Joseph University. She also holds an Ohio Teacher Leader License Endorsement from the University of Cincinnati.

In addition to Sand, other finalists for the Hixson Teacher of the Year were:

- Mrs. Elizabeth Weber, Loveland Elementary School, Loveland, Ohio
- Laura Coomer, Wyoming High School, Wyoming, Ohio
- Ned Earley, Lebanon High School, Lebanon, Ohio
- Theresa McKnight, Oakdale Elementary, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Amanda Raybuck, Beechwood Elementary, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

All nominees completed an application process, which looks at things such as professional development activities, community involvement, and teaching philosophy. Submitted entries are then reviewed by an independent panel comprised of school administrators and teachers from around the region, which selected Sand as this year's Hixson Teacher of the Year recipient. In addition to the \$5,000 prize given to Sand, each finalist received a monetary award and a plaque recognizing their professional excellence at the Hixson reception.

Because Hixson believes in the power of education and the need to reward great teachers, the program's operations and information are available to any other company which would like to institute their own educational awards program. Interested companies are encouraged to call Hixson at 513-241-1230.

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From left to right: Hixson associate Scott McGlamery, his daughter Katie McGlamery, 2019 Hixson Teacher of the Year Melissa Sand and Hixson President and CEO Greg Hammond.

ABOUT HIXSON

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