

## **Georgia's Pre-K TOTY Winners**

### **2020-2021 school year**

#### **Heather Melillo – Rome City School System - West End Elementary School**

Heather Melillo is from Rome, Georgia. She graduated from Dowling College in New York with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in Literacy Education. Heather started teaching in Georgia's Pre-K at West End Elementary in 2016 and while teaching, obtained her Specialist degree. She also holds a Georgia educator certificate.

Heather is a member of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team at West End Elementary, which focuses on building a strong social and emotional foundation for Pre-K students. She is also a member of the Helping Hands Club and the Running Club and volunteers for the honor's program, Parent Teacher Organization, and the STEAM program. When she is not involved in school activities, Heather helps with community fundraising activities by raising funds for Child Abuse Prevention.

#### **Alderine Healey – YMCA Paulding Early Learning Center**

Alderine Healey is from Acworth, Georgia. She teaches at the YMCA Paulding Early Learning Center in Hiram. Alderine comes from a family of educators. Her mother and sisters are teachers, and her brother is a retired high school vice principal. Prior to pursuing a career in education, Alderine worked in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry in the Caribbean. She began teaching in Georgia's Pre-K in 2011 as an assistant teacher. After obtaining a Georgia educator certificate, she moved into the lead teacher position in 2016. Alderine earned a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Grand Canyon University.

When Alderine is not teaching, she is busy volunteering for organizations that support children in her community. She also coordinates the annual YMCA pancake breakfast, which raises money to go toward scholarships for families at the YMCA. In recognition of her contributions to the YMCA, Alderine was given the YMCA Mission and Member Service Award.

#### **2020-2021 Finalists**

Tricia Floyd – Maxwell High School of Technology Pre-K (Gwinnett County)

Deana Snowden – Demorest Elementary School (Habersham County)

D'Arri Moore – Andrew and Walter Young YMCA (Fulton County)

Genevieve Rodriguez – Tabula Rasa, The Language Academy (Gwinnett County)