

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TheBestSchools.org Announces Finalists for \$20,000 2017 Educator Excellence Award**

PELLA, IOWA (Sept. 20, 2017) — Recognizing America’s elite leaders in education, TheBestSchools.org announces the five finalists for its 2017 \$20,000 Escalante–Gradillas Prize for Best in Education.

“Great school superintendents, principals, counselors, and curriculum designers often work behind the scenes and go without the recognition they deserve for their work,” says Dan Edelen, director of marketing services for TheBestSchools.org. “The Escalante–Gradillas Prize promotes those educators working in challenging social and academic situations who nonetheless overcome those obstacles and achieve successful outcomes for their students and fellow educators.”

The winner of the Escalante–Gradillas Prize for Best in Education receives an individual prize of \$10,000, along with an additional \$10,000 for the winner’s school or district. Through the prize, TheBestSchools.org continues to promote the high academic standards of the late Jaime Escalante, the famed calculus teacher profiled in the 1988 film *Stand & Deliver*, and his principal, Henry Gradillas, who now serves as an academic advisor to TheBestSchools.org.

TheBestSchools.org links to the finalists page:

<https://thebestschools.org/special/best-in-education-prize-finalists-2017/>

<http://bitly.com/egfinalists2017>

The winner of the prize and two runners-up will be announced Thursday, Oct. 5, 2017.

“The Escalante–Gradillas Prize for Best in Education changes lives,” says Edelen. “While we wish each of the five candidates could win the \$20,000, the exclusive company of these five finalists already reflects their success. By doing more with less and promoting



*We know how education works  
and how to make it work for you.*

the spirit of academic rigor and accomplishment that defines both Escalante and Gradillas, they help young people become the best they can be, and that benefits us all.”

TheBestSchools.org is the leader in school rankings—K-12, university, and post graduate—providing millions of readers with the information they need to make informed choices for their education.

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