

## Press Release

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# Washoe County Educator Receives Prestigious California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence

Pilar Biller recognized by California Casualty and the NEA Foundation



*Reno, NV, October 10, 2018* – Damonte Ranch High School art instructor Pilar Biller was honored Wednesday as one of 46 public school educators receiving the prestigious California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence. She was presented with a \$500 check from California Casualty’s Jill Strandquist during a Washoe Education Association meeting, with nearly 100 members present.

Ms. Biller was nominated for the award by her peers in the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), and will represent Nevada at the NEA Foundation’s Salute to Excellence in Education Gala to be held in Washington, D.C. on February 8, 2019.

Ms. Biller is also the 2018 Nevada Teacher of the Year. She is credited with developing an inquiry-based art curriculum that promotes innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

“I am so proud of this award,” she said. “I can’t wait to meet with my principal and hand him the check and letter.”

The California Casualty Awards for Teaching Excellence highlight educators from around the country cited by their peers for their dedication to the profession, community engagement, professional development, attention to diversity and advocacy for fellow educators.

“We are delighted that during our 50th anniversary next year, we will celebrate the largest number of awardees in our history. These educators are keeping the promise of public education by creating learning opportunities for their students that are relevant

and rigorous. They advocate for each other, the profession, and public education,” says Harriet Sanford, NEA Foundation President and CEO.

“We deeply appreciate California Casualty’s partnership in recognizing these exemplary educators, and we look forward to honoring them next February on stage at the beautiful National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. and with virtual celebrations across the country.”

“We are glad to have the chance to show our respect and appreciation for the work of public school educators each year,” said Beau Brown, California Casualty CEO. “We applaud the great work of the California Casualty awardees.”

**L to R: Washoe Education Association Executive Director Tom Stauss, California Casualty’s Jill Strandquist, California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence recipient Pilar Biller, Washoe Education Association President Natha Anderson, and Antonio Galindo, NEA Member Benefits.**



*Headquartered in San Mateo, California, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has provides the NEA Auto and Home Insurance Program available to NSEA members. Founded in 1914, California Casualty has been led by four generations of the Brown family. To learn more about California Casualty, or to request an auto insurance quote, please visit [www.calcas.com/NEA](http://www.calcas.com/NEA) or call 1.866.763.6285.*