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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ute Pass Elementary School Teacher Named Finalist for Colorado Teacher of the Year 2024

Chipita Park, CO — Ute Pass Elementary School is thrilled to announce that Miles Groth, a dedicated 6th-grade teacher at the Mountain Academy of Arts and Sciences, has achieved the remarkable distinction of being named a finalist for the prestigious 2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year award.

Miles Groth, who teaches at Ute Pass Elementary School within Manitou Springs School District 14, created the Mountain Academy of Arts and Sciences (MAAS) curriculum nine years ago. It focuses on experiential learning, integrated lessons and environmental stewardship. In 2022, he helped the MAAS become the only school-based programming in the U.S. to earn a Leave No Trace Youth Program Accreditation.

"I'm incredibly honored to be recognized for this honor amongst other incredible educators," said Miles Groth, teacher at UPES. "For years, I have worked to provide students with a unique approach to public education that values relationships and connections to the natural world. I'm excited for the opportunity to share how exciting learning in my class and our school is!"

Mr. Groth is in his 10th year at MSSD14. His dedication to his students and his dynamic teaching style have left an indelible mark on the school community.

"Our school and district are extremely proud of Miles and the work that he has done to provide students with non traditional learning experiences!" said Jackie Powell, Principal of Ute Pass Elementary School. "Miles is someone who works tirelessly to remove barriers in a student's education, and the results are seen and felt throughout our entire community. He believes that a classroom is not confined to four walls, and that young learners can have a voice in their educational decisions. Miles is well deserving of this very special honor and we know he would represent the state of Colorado, and education as a whole, in a positive way!"

The Colorado Teacher of the Year award recognizes an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled K-12 classroom teacher to represent the entire profession in Colorado.

The sole finalist will be announced by the end of October.

ABOUT MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

Established in 1872, Manitou Springs School District 14 (MSSD14) serves approximately 1,300 students from Preschool to 12th Grade who reside in the communities of Manitou Springs, Cascade, Green Mountain Falls, Chipita Park, Crystal Park, and Cedar Heights. The district also serves about 48 percent "choice" students who come from other locations in El Paso and Teller Counties.

MSSD14 offers a "small town" educational environment driven by the core values of relationships, deep learning and opportunity. The district and its staff are dedicated to providing a safe and caring learning environment, encouraging all students to reach their potential and preparing responsible citizens.

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