

# Pike County Educator Wins Math Teaching Award

*High school teacher honored for transforming her classroom using powerful mathematics practices*

*July 9, 2018* — Melinda Defee of the Pike County, Alabama School District won the Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award from the Southern Regional Education Board. Defee, a teacher at Pike County High, with students from seventh through 12th grades, was honored at SREB's Sixth Annual College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference July 9 in Orlando, Florida.

The Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award recognizes a teacher who has revolutionized his or her teaching approach by purposefully utilizing SREB's powerful mathematics practices in planning and instruction. This teacher engages students in productive struggle that deepens their understanding, reasoning and ability to apply mathematics to non-routine real-world and abstract problems. Defee works diligently to incorporate these practices into her own class, according to SREB math trainer Karen Gray, and serves as an outstanding role model for other teachers to do the same.

Defee gets results by not being too quick to answer students' questions, but by asking probing questions that help them solve math problems on their own. Her students agree — one writes, "By asking further questions to prompt our thinking, Ms. Defee helps us to solve our problems without giving away the solution."

SREB's College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference has energized thousands of teachers by creating a collaborative environment that builds teacher confidence and student learning through powerful literacy and math practices.

*The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve public education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at [sreb.org](http://sreb.org).*

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