



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Chris Beaman

Director of Advancement and Communications, Kappa Delta Pi
800.284.3167
chris@kdp.org

ANNOUNCING THE 2018 NATIONAL STUDENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, PARTH SHAH

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), International Honor Society in Education, and the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) are honored to recognize Parth Shah of Morgan Hill, California, as recipient of the 2018 KDP/ATE National Student Teacher of the Year Award.

Shah is currently enrolled at University of California, Berkeley, where he is pursuing both a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences and a teaching credential. His time spent student teaching in the spring 2018 semester at Berkeley High School in the Berkeley Unified School District laid the groundwork for receiving this prestigious award. As part of the application process, Shah submitted the lesson "Volume of Rotating Solids: Introduction to Disk Method," which he taught to a calculus class.

Shah has a passion for creating lessons that help students visualize the concept. His approach includes the idea of low-floor, high-ceiling problems, devised by Stanford Education Professor Dr. Jo Boaler. These are problems all students can achieve, but they have the potential to be taken to a higher level. Shah elaborates, "Not only are these problems engaging, but they also inspire collaboration and equity. Students work together to try and find a creative approach to the problem, and because these problems are extremely visual, low-performing students are not scared of them. This brings a rich sense of inclusion to the classroom, which is rare to find."

It was during his own time in high school that Shah began his path toward teaching. Excelling in math classes prompted his peers to request tutoring from him. His sponsor and former calculus teacher at Ann Sobrato High School, Karine Gharibyan, remembers, "As a student, many of Parth's peers were low performing. Parth would take it upon himself to lug his portable whiteboard to the local Starbucks every weekday at 6:00 a.m. to teach his peers. He is able to take the most advanced calculus concepts and reduce them to simple terms that any student can understand."

In addition to his undergraduate studies, Shah works with his advisor Dr. Dor Abrahamson in researching the importance of visualizations in calculus classrooms, stating, "I am constantly looking for ways to help my students with modern approaches that are backed by data. I believe that my outlook towards constantly reflecting and modernizing my teaching practices will make me a strong asset in the teaching profession." Gharibyan further highlighted Shah's qualities, saying, "Parth's sense of empathy and his ability to learn are what made him the best student I have seen in my 20 years of teaching, as well as one of the best math teachers I will ever see."

With respect to Shah's application, KDP Executive Director Faye Snodgrass stated, "Parth's focus on engaging, creative, and instructional practices creates a dynamic and effective learning environment for all students. His approach builds an inclusive and collaborative classroom culture that leads to equity and student success."

On being selected as the 2018 KDP/ATE National Student Teacher of the Year, Shah was humbled and grateful: "This is an unbelievable honor to reaffirm that education is the right career choice for me."

Since the award's establishment in 1994, KDP and ATE have named a very select few from around the United States as National Student Teacher/Intern of the Year. The award recognizes one student teacher/intern annually who has demonstrated the ability to plan and develop classroom management skills and instructional strategies that support all students; establish interpersonal relationships with students, parents, faculty, and staff; and reflect powerfully on their

student teaching experience. Award winners are acknowledged with a \$1,500 scholarship award.

Cathy Hargrove-Hartman, instructor in the College of Education at Butler University, and member of the review panel for this award, shared, “We should feel proud of these candidates and their contributions to the profession. It was an honor to be surrounded by their thinking, reflections, and teaching.”

About Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.

About the Association of Teacher Educators

The Association of Teacher Educators was founded in 1920 and is the only national, individual membership organization devoted solely to the improvement of teacher education for both school and campus-based teacher educators. ATE members represent over 650 colleges and universities, 500 major school systems, and the majority of the state departments of education.