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**From:** Jahana Hayes, National Teacher of the Year 2016 <ed.gov@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2016 2:55 PM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** FW: Thank You, Teachers

Hi!

My name is Jahana and this week I had the incredible honor of being named National Teacher of the Year.

I wanted to make sure you saw this email from Secretary of Education John King, thanking teachers across the country. We both know the crucial part that teachers play in building the future of our country, and that teachers should be at the forefront of meaningful change for the benefit of our students.

**This email from Secretary King spoke to me. Help me spread the word in celebrating and elevating teachers across the country by forwarding this email to all the teachers in your life.**

Yours in teaching,

Jahana

PS. If you want to see a full version of the Secretary's Thank You letter to teachers, you can [find it here](#).

-----Forwarded Message-----

**From:** John King, Secretary of Education  
**Date:** Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6:33 PM  
**Subject:** Thank You, Teachers



Friend,

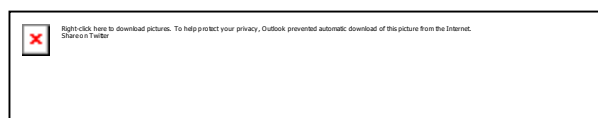
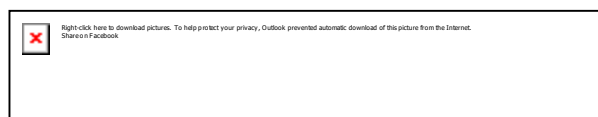
This week, our nation recognizes and honors teachers across the country for their tireless efforts on behalf of our students, everywhere from small towns and suburbs, to rural communities and Tribal lands, to big cities. Teachers have one of the most challenging and fulfilling jobs — literally shaping and changing lives.

If you are a teacher, or if you know one, you know the long hours and hard work that go into designing challenging lessons, guiding students and providing feedback, engaging with parents and families, collaborating with colleagues, reflecting on instruction, and staying abreast of research.

But much of the work you do also is about the intangible — it's about fostering that almost indescribable, and yet unmistakable, spark between you and your students. It's there when you see the potential in every student who walks through your door, even when he may not yet recognize his own gifts.

For me, the importance of teachers is personal. My own teachers saved my life providing me with the love, support, safety, and skills that laid the foundation for the many opportunities I've been fortunate to have throughout my career in education.

**[Join me in sharing why this is personal for you too. Share our video and tell us about that teacher that changed your life using #ThankATeacher.](#)**



**Teaching is truly the profession that launches every career.** Thank you for sharing with your students your passion for world languages, music, literature, math, science, theater, history, and myriad other subjects. Thank you for empowering our youth and for furthering social justice by never being satisfied until every child has access to an excellent education.

We understand that teacher voice is a crucial part of conversations that impact your classroom and your profession, and we are committed to ensuring you are supported so you can do your best work on behalf of our children every day.

Today and every day, we celebrate and thank you for the vital role that you play in supporting students and strengthening the future of our nation.

With immense gratitude,

John B. King, Jr.  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education

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