Colorado League of Charter Schools Honors Two Outstanding Educators as Quality, Choice, and Equity Teacher Award Recipients
C-pher Bair and Laurie Maier recognized by school leaders, peers and students for innovative approach to school programming

Contact: Elise Bishop, league@groundfloormedia.com

DENVER, Colo. (Dec. 19, 2019) – The Colorado League of Charter Schools (The League) announced today the second Quality, Choice, and Equity (QCE) Teacher Award highlighting two dedicated teachers who are using innovative practices to support quality, choice or equity in their school community. The League is proud to celebrate C-pher Bair and Laurie Maier as the second recipients of the QCE Teacher Award.

Laurie has taught middle and high school grades and holds a bachelor of arts in behavioral science and a master of arts in educational administration. Her teaching strategies vary based on the needs of her students, and she often incorporates art and music to teach social studies and historic trends. C-pher is an Aikido Master and holds a bachelor of arts in liberal arts. He incorporates Tai Chi into his daily routine and teaching practices. His love of nature and experience as a raft guide has parlayed into his life as a teacher and makes him an excellent fit for the middle school students at Ross Montessori School.

C-pher and Laurie were chosen for having created an innovative and highly successful middle school program at Ross Montessori School that maximizes the strengths of adolescents and helps them build their own executive functioning skills. Since 2013, C-pher and Laurie have done just this. The program they developed is effective because it meets adolescents where they are socially, academically and cognitively, builds on their strengths, and effectively prepares them for high school and beyond.

They’ve successfully led Montessori learners at the start of seventh grade and prepared them to utilize their learning styles, think outside the box, and excel in life. The program incorporates academic excellence and individualized creativity with choice, collaboration and the social nature of adolescents. These key practices, coupled with work or jobs such as managing the middle school barista program and creating short films highlighting the middle school, encourages self-esteem, grace, courtesy and accountability within the Ross Montessori School community.

"C-pher and Laurie both have a unique ability to make connections with students and show that learning can inspire the pursuit of passions," said a former Ross Montessori School student who now attends the Colorado Rocky Mountain School. “C-pher and Laurie taught me more than just English, math, science and social studies. They taught me what it means to be a critical thinker in our modern world. They always approached me as an equal and showed me how important it is to stay true to yourself.”

Each month, the League will recognize charter school teachers throughout Colorado who are deserving of recognition for the outstanding work they do for their students and school community. The League chooses these teachers through a competitive nomination process and winners are selected by a panel of League staff. The League supports all the charter school
teachers at the 262 schools across the state and their commitment to excellence for their students.

To learn more about the QCE Teacher Award or to nominate an inspirational teacher, visit https://coloradoleague.org/page/TeacherPage2019-20.

###

**About the Colorado League of Charter Schools**
The Colorado League of Charter Schools (The League) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting charter schools in Colorado. The League is committed to helping these schools reach higher levels of student performance and overall success by providing information and resources, including technical support, advocacy, public relations assistance, professional development and much more. The League’s mission: to improve student achievement by supporting Colorado’s charter schools, positively reshaping the public-school landscape, and advancing opportunities for innovation and expanded high quality public-school choice.