



# TOYOTA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Broward County educator named national Family Teacher of the Year**

*\$25,000 grant will fund family engagement efforts for two standout teachers in Florida and Washington*

**LOUISVILLE, KY (October 27, 2021)** – Manoucheka Dolcine of Broward County, Florida has been selected for the top family engagement honor in the nation as she was named the 2021 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year through a surprise announcement among her peers. The annual award is a decades-long collaboration between Toyota and the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL). Throughout her career, Dolcine has fostered family learning environments by involving both parents and children in her classroom with an emphasis on positive social interactions, sensory and social-emotional activities, soft job skills, workforce and career development, and academic mentorship programs for young adult parents.

The Toyota Family Teacher of the Year award, a national honor now in its 25th year, recognizes families play a crucial role in the success of children and salutes educators who are exceptional at using multi-generational approaches to engage students and their families in education. “Manoucheka Dolcine’s passion and values align with our education focus and efforts to bring forward solutions co-created together with the community,” said Mike Goss, general manager, Toyota Social Innovation. “We are so inspired by Manoucheka’s work and we are proud to name her the 2021 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year.”

Dolcine and runner-up Mario Godoy-Gonzalez, of Royal City, Washington, were surprised virtually in front of their peers in recent weeks. The [public announcement of both winners](#) was made today at the closing of the 2021 Families Learning Conference. NCFL’s annual conference convenes national experts in education, family engagement, and research to discuss and share the latest information regarding multigenerational approaches to learning.

Dolcine’s school will receive \$20,000 to enhance her multigenerational program focused on teen parents. As runner-up, Mario Godoy-Gonzalez’s school will receive a \$5,000 grant award to further his family engagement efforts. Since 1997, Toyota Family Teacher of the Year winners, runners-up, and their respective organizations have received more than \$625,000 and funded 50 innovative teacher-led projects.

Dolcine has worked hard to bring intentionality to her district’s family engagement efforts by creating programming that responds to the needs of families. When she saw a need for an upgraded childcare solution, she proposed, designed, and implemented a licensed preschool program that has tripled the number of students that can be serviced in the Broward County community. To combat chronic absence and promote program retention, Dolcine initiates weekly home visits and well-being checkups with parents and students. Additionally, she coordinates semester food and clothing distribution drives to ensure families’ basic needs are being met so they can focus on the core multigenerational education programming.

All teachers have been confronted with new challenges during the last two years due to the pandemic. Dolcine and Gonzalez have continued to demonstrate their outstanding commitment to

students and families despite these uniquely challenging circumstances. NCFL President Dr. Felicia Cumings Smith says “We are happy to recognize Manoucheka Dolcine as this year’s winner and Mario Godoy-Gonzalez as runner-up. Both are visionary educators who are constantly assessing, creating, and innovating for families in their communities. By engaging multiple generations of the family in learning together, these outstanding teachers are linking research to practice and fostering an environment where families can thrive.”

### **About the National Center for Families Learning**

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit that works to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. Partnering with educators, literacy advocates, and policymakers, NCFL develops and provides programming, professional development, and resources from the classroom to the community that empower and raise families to achieve their potential. For more information on NCFL, visit [familieslearning.org](http://familieslearning.org).

### **About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE:TM), creator of the Prius hybrid and the Mirai fuel cell vehicle, is committed to building vehicles for the way people live through our Toyota and Lexus brands. Over the past 60 years, we’ve built more than 38 million cars and trucks in North America, where we have 14 manufacturing plants, 15 including our joint venture in Alabama (10 in the U.S.), and directly employ more than 47,000 people (over 36,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (nearly 1,500 in the U.S.) sold 2.8 million cars and trucks (2.4 million in the U.S.) in 2018.

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