

Simone Lutz was an educator for 36 years serving in multiple capacities as 6th grade English, Social Studies teacher at Beekmantown CSD, Campus School multi age classroom teacher, Supervisor and instructor Education Department SUNY Plattsburgh, Block Program students, BOCES gifted and talented program development and instruction for Beekmantown CSD and Plattsburgh City SD, and last 26 years at Beekmantown CSD Gifted and Talented SOAR Enrichment program teacher/coordinator... and loved every minute of it!

Alison Brown began her teaching career in Southern California developing curriculum and teaching outdoor education. She moved to the North Country and taught Middle School Science and High School Biology at Beekmantown CSD, retiring after 29 years of service. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma International., a society of women educators, and is an Emeritus of the NYS Master Teacher Program.

The Educator Awards Committee meets annually to offer one or two awards to active educators in Clinton and Essex County public schools and BOCES schools located in Clinton and Essex County, our Northeastern Zone (NEZ) region. Alison Brown and Simone Lutz have served as Co-Chairs of this committee since 2021. A local NEZ award will alternate with two regional awards offered by RENY.

The \$1000 **Kramer Memorial Educator Award** (check title) will be offered every two years. (This award was previously a \$500 annual award. The Board voted to make this a biennial award of \$1000 in 2024.) This award honors Dr. Karl Kramer, former professor and mentor to Education Majors at SUNY Plattsburgh and a long-time devoted member of the Northeastern Zone of RENY.

Two \$1000 Retired Educators of NY (RENY) **Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grants** will be offered in alternating years. This award is offered to five of the ten RENY Zones each year. (This award was \$1000 in the past, but was increased to \$2000 in 2024.) This grant honors dedicated and devoted members of RENY, Ross Hudson and Florence Coulter Kramer (not related to Karl Kramer).

The general timeline for activities related to this committee begins in January when the Co-Chairs meet to review the previous year's cycle and make any revisions to documents that are necessary. Applications are sent electronically to school districts in the NEZ region by the end of February. Submissions are returned electronically and are reviewed by the committee in May. Winning applicants are notified before the end of the school year, usually early June, and are expected to complete their projects during the next school year. Committee members plan on meeting virtually or in person for a meeting in May to discuss the applications and make a determination/select the winner.