



SANDY GARRETT
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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12 Finalists Selected for 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year

OKLAHOMA CITY - State Superintendent Sandy Garrett today announced the 12 finalists for 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year as part of the Oklahoma Department of Education's annual "Leadership" conference at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Representing more than 160 years of teaching experience in all core subject areas and world languages, and from elementary, middle and high school grades, the finalists symbolize the high quality of Oklahoma's teaching force, Garrett said.

"Teaching 21st century learners is not for the faint of heart or for those who lack passion for their chosen profession," Garrett said. "These 12 men and women are the epitome of that can-do, pioneering spirit that all children need leading their classrooms and who strive to make lasting impressions on youth. Each of these educators is outstanding and would make an extraordinary Oklahoma Teacher of the Year."

Six state regional committees comprised of teachers and parents selected the 12 finalists. Each committee chose two of the finalists.

The 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year will be chosen by a state committee comprised of education, business and civic leaders in a formal selection process, and will be announced in ceremonies at the Oklahoma State Fair. The winner will be Oklahoma's representative in the national Teacher of the Year competition, will serve one year as Oklahoma's "Ambassador of Teaching," and be the recipient of more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes.

The finalists for 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year are:

Jennifer Daftari teaches 5th grade science at **Jay Upper Elementary School**. She has been in current position for one year, with a total of 12 years experience in education and previous positions at Jay teaching math and social studies and middle school science and algebra in Southwest City, Missouri.

Dr. Janise McIntyre teaches senior English and "Reading for Pleasure" at **Elgin High School**. She has been in her current position for four years, with a total of 14 years experience as an educator and previous employment at Elgin as a counselor and at Burkburnett schools in Texas.

Stacy Culbreath Shepherd teaches freshman English and Choctaw language at **Durant High School**. She has been in her current position for 14 years, with a total of 29 years as an educator and previous employment at Colbert Public Schools

Kristy VanDorn teaches eighth grade science at **Deer Creek Middle School**. She has been in her current position for two years, with a total of 10 years as an educator. She had previous employment in higher education and with Putnam City and Stillwater schools.

Leahna West teaches Spanish at **Byng Junior High School**. /she has been in her current position for 15 years, with a total of 16 years experience as an educator and previous employment with Latta schools.

Russell Randolph teaches geometry and pre-Advanced Placement geometry at **Mustang Mid High School**. He has been in his current position for three years with a total of 14 years experience in education and previous employment at Moore Public Schools and Advanced Academics corporation as a teacher and developer.

Mary Pace teaches seventh grade English at **Whittier Middle School in Norman**. She has been in her current position four years with a total of 17 years experience in education and previous employment at Stratford Public Schools and Bullard and Whithouse schools in Texas.

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FIRST IN THE TWENTY-FIRST



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Jennifer Robinson teaches French at **Classen School of Advanced Studies in Oklahoma City**. She has been in her current position five years with a total of 14 years experience in education and previous employment as a French teacher in Midwest City-Del City and Sulpher public schools.

Rusty D.Sellars teaches physical science and chemistry at **Oklahoma Union Public Schools**. He has been in his current position for nine years and has a total of nine years experience in education.

Lisa Seay teaches sixth grade science, pre-Advanced Placement science and Gifted and Talented at **Clyde Boyd Middle School in Sand Springs**. She has been in her current position for four years and has a total of six years experience in education and previous employment at Tulsa Public Schools and Crowley schools in Texas.

Brian M.Grimm teaches English and pre-Advanced Placement English at **Will Rogers High School in Tulsa**. He has been in his current position for five years with a total of 13 years experience in education and previous employment at Dallas and other schools in Texas.

Kayleen Browning teaches fifth grade social studies, spelling and writing at **Skyview Elementary School in Yukon**. She has been in her current position for four years and has a total of 13 years experience in education and previous employment at Putnam City schools and Yakima schools in Washington state.

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