

# 2005-2006

# ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A PROGRAM OF THE  
ALABAMA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AND THE  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



**MARGARET PETTY**

2005-2006 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
AND ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

RAINBOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
MADISON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

“ My passion is found in my desire to make a difference in the lives of students with disabilities. As a special education teacher, I work hard to make the general education classroom a learning environment where tolerance and acceptance of all students are expected. I continue to be an advocate for inclusion when it is appropriate for students with disabilities. I work with general education teachers in an effort to assist them in developing lessons that meet the needs of students with special needs. I interface with special education teachers to help them understand what expertise they can offer in the general education classroom. I spend a great deal of time working with parents to find solutions for their specific student. Effective education must be a joint effort that requires all of us to find methods and strategies to help students reach success throughout their academic careers.

My hope this year is to help teachers, students, parents, and members of our communities across Alabama understand that education for our students requires a partnership in working together in an effort to find viable solutions that affect the success of ALL students in Alabama.

**EDUCATION**

- Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas – B.A. in Elementary Education (K-8)
- Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Alabama – Masters in Special Education/Learning Disabilities
- National Board Certified Teacher – 2004

**LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

- Cooperating teacher for six student teachers
- Mentor for six new teachers, Madison City Schools
- Presenter for Inclusion workshops for Madison City Schools
- Lead teacher for Special Education for Liberty Middle School and Rainbow Elementary School
- Presenter for inservice sessions for teachers and parents on serving students with Dyslexia

**AWARDS**

- Elementary Teacher of the Year for Madison City Schools, 2004
- Teacher of the Year for Rainbow Elementary School, 2004
- Nominated for Disney American Teacher Award, 2002
- Nominated for Teacher of the Year at Liberty Middle School, 2002 and 2001
- Teacher of the Year at Liberty Middle School, 1996



**EQUIVIA W. RHODES**

2005-2006 ALTERNATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR  
AND SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OPELIKA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
OPELIKA CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

“ Fundamental to the teacher’s credo is the belief that all students can learn and should, therefore, act on that belief. I love to work with young people, and I constantly strive to make knowledge accessible to all students. I am a firm believer that success depends on a teacher’s belief in the dignity and worth of all human beings and the potential that exists within each child. To respond effectively to individual differences, I learn as many things as I can about the students I teach: Anna is anxious about mathematics, Claire loves science fiction, and John is captivated by jazz. I constantly use this information to decide how to best tailor instruction. Throughout my career as an educator, I have become vastly aware that there is value in both structured and inductive learning. While it is useful to teach students about the concepts and skills generated in various subjects, it is also valuable to engage students in learning by discovery; where they search for problems, patterns, and solutions. Teaching has proven to be a very rewarding career choice for me; one of the most rewarding aspects has been seeing my students strive to become lifelong learners in our society.

**EDUCATION**

- Auburn University, Auburn, AL, Doctoral Program, Secondary Mathematics Education, 2003 – present
- Auburn University, Auburn, AL, Education Specialist, Secondary Mathematics Education, 1999-2003
- Columbus State University, Columbus, GA, Secondary Mathematics Education, 1994-1997
- Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Bachelor of Science, Secondary Education Mathematics, 1988-1993

**LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

- School Teacher Leader, Lead Presenter, Curriculum Development Committee, Professional Development Committee, *TEAM-Math (Transforming East Alabama Mathematics)*, College of Education, Auburn University, 2004-present
- Alabama Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Fall Forum, 2004
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Applied and Discrete Mathematics, Auburn University, 2004
- Instructor, College of Mathematics, Southern Union State Community College, 1999-2001

**AWARDS**

- Who’s Who Among American Teachers, 2004
- TEAM-Math Presenter Award, 2004
- Opelika City Teacher of the Year, 2004
- Opelika Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2004

## AWARDS

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS** – Name badges, business cards, notecards, and notepads for the Teacher of the Year and Alternate, and notecards and notepads for the District Teachers of the Year

**ALABAMA CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS** – Brief for the Teacher of the Year and Alternate

**ALABAMA POWER COMPANY** – Monetary contribution for finalist(s), and media training for Teachers of the Year

**ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL** – Tickets for the Teacher of the Year to bring a class of up to 50 students to a SchoolFest performance and two tickets each to the Teacher of the Year and Alternate to a performance of any play

**ALFA FARMERS FEDERATION AND ALFA INSURANCE COMPANIES** – Use of a 2005 Chevrolet Impala for one year for the Teacher of the Year

**BLUE BELL CREAMERIES** – Ice cream delivered to the schools of district finalists

**BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD** – Cash award for the school of the Teacher of the Year

**CALAMAR ENTERTAINMENT** – Office furniture for the Teacher of the Year and Alternate

**CAPITOL ROSEMONT FLORIST** – Gifts for the district judges

**COUNCIL FOR LEADERS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS (CLAS)** – A plaque for each teacher

**CRACKER BARREL** – Gift Certificate for the Teacher of the Year

**JEFFERSON CREATIONS** – Art for the the Teacher of the Year

**LEE AND LAN FLORIST** – Floral bouquets for the Teacher of the Year and Alternate

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS OF ALABAMA** – Gifts and lunch for Judges

**SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA, INC.** – A \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and a certificate for each teacher

**SMART TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** – SMART Board for the Teacher of the Year

- **AlphaSmart, Inc.** – Dana™ by AlphaSmart, Inc. Palm OS® Laptop Alternative

- **Immersive Education** – KarZouche® role-playing software or Krucible® science simulation software

- **eInstruction Corporation** – SMART Classroom Performance System

- **NEC Solutions (America)** – SMART Ideas concept mapping software

**SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED** – Cash awards:

Teacher of the Year	(Clothing Wardrobe)	\$1,000
Alternate Teacher of the Year	(Clothing Wardrobe)	300
Teacher of the Year and Alternate	(Calling Card, each)	200
District Finalists (14)	(Grant award)	200

**COMPASS BANK** – Cash awards:

Teacher of the Year	\$1,000
Alternate Teacher of the Year	500

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Grant awards to be used for classroom and/or instructional improvement:

Teacher of the Year	\$2,500
Teacher of the Year's School	300
Alternate Teacher of the Year	1,500
Alternate's School	300
Two Finalists	750 each
District Teachers of the Year	500 each

## RECEPTION SPONSORS

- **A+ EDUCATION FOUNDATION**
- **ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES FOR TEACHER EDUCATION**
- **ALABAMA CONFERENCE OF EDUCATORS**
- **ALABAMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**
- **Floral arrangements for the reception provided by WOODMAN'S SILKS, GIFTS AND MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama Department of Education sponsor Alabama's Teacher of the Year program. The program is affiliated with the National Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic, Inc.

In October of each year, the Alabama Department of Education's Communication Office sends the application booklets to local superintendents, elementary school principals, and secondary school principals. The booklet describes the guidelines for selection of the State Teacher of the Year.

A school-level Teacher of the Year selection committee solicits nominees and selects the school's Teacher(s) of the Year (elementary and secondary).

The committee forwards the application(s) of its honoree(s), along with a cover letter from the principal, to the school system superintendent for participation in the system-level selection.

Once the system-level selection committee has chosen its Teacher of the Year honorees, applications are sent to the State Department of Education. A cover letter from the local superintendent is attached. It acknowledges that the applications represent the school system's official nominees for the district level of the selection process. The applications of the honorees from each local school system will be reviewed by a district-level Teacher of the Year selection committee in each of the eight State Board of Education districts. Each committee will select a district elementary Teacher of the Year and a district secondary Teacher of the Year, for a total of 16 district honorees. Following the selection process, the 16 district finalists submit a 10-minute video presentation in the classroom. The State Committee, representing the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent, professional educators, education-related organizations, the PTA, and business and community leaders reviews the application and video and selects two teachers from each category: one elementary and one secondary teacher are selected from the top four. The committee selects the Teacher of the Year and the alternate Teacher of the Year.

## NEED A SPEAKER?

### ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM SPEAKERS BUREAU

- Cynda Fickert, Auburn City Schools, 2004-05
- Tammy Rickard, Hoover City Schools, 2003-04
- Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" Rogers, Jefferson County Schools, 2002-03\*
- Theresa Farmer, Shelby County Schools, 2001-02
- Tonya Perry, Hoover City Schools, 2000-01\*\*
- Dr. Ann Dominick Hardin, Hoover City Schools, 1999-2000
- Cheryl V. Sparks, Calhoun County Schools, 1998-99
- Pamela T. Henson, Baldwin County Schools, 1997-98
- Robin A. Litaker, Hoover City Schools, 1996-97
- Eva H. Thompson, Madison County Schools, 1995-96
- Robert S. Ricks, Talladega County Schools, 1994-95
- Anne Jolly, Mobile County Schools, 1993-94
- Mike Jones, Athens City Schools, 1992-93
- Penelope Moore, Sylacauga City Schools, 1991-92

\* National Teacher of the Year

\*\* Finalist for National Teacher of the Year

For information about the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program and the Speakers Bureau, contact:

Ann Starks  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101  
(334) 242-9700

Margaret Petty may be reached at (256) 830-4673.  
Equivia Rhodes may be reached at (334) 749-2675.

**JOSEPH B. MORTON** **7-05**  
**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**  
**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.