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

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P.O. Box 302101 · Montgomery, AL 36130-2101
(334) 242-9700

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Regina Everett may be reached at (251) 709-4780

2008-2009

A L A B A M A

Teacher
OF THE
Year

How The Program Works

The Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama Department of Education sponsor the Alabama Teacher of the Year program. The National Teacher of the Year program, presented by the ING Foundation, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

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 Alabama Department of Education with a cover letter from the local superintendent. The letter acknowledges that the applications represent the school system's official nominees for the system level of the selection process. The applications 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 ten-minute video presentation taken in their classrooms. The State Committee, representing the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, professional educators, education-related organizations, the PTA, and business and community leaders, reviews the applications and videos and selects two teachers from each category. One elementary and one secondary teacher are selected from the top four. The State 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

- 🍎 Pamela Harman, Hoover City Schools, 2007-08
- 🍎 Cameron McKinley, Hoover City Schools, 2006-07
- 🍎 Margaret Petty, Madison City Schools, 2005-06
- 🍎 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

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.

A Program of the Alabama State Board of Education and the Alabama Department of Education

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ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Alabama Association of School Boards

Gift Cards and Stationery for the District Teachers of the Year and Gift Cards, Stationery, and Business Cards for Alabama's Teacher of the Year and Alternate

Alabama State Board of Education and

Alabama Department of Education

Grant Awards to be used for classroom and/or instructional improvement

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

Alabama Conference of Educators

Cash Award for Alabama's Teacher of the Year ... \$500

Alabama Education Association

One-year Membership in AEA for Alabama's Teacher of the Year. Computer Bag, Coffee Mug, Notepad, Bookmark, and Highlighter for the District Teachers of the Year

Alabama Power Company

Monetary Contribution, Lunch for State Committee Members, and Media Training for Teachers of the Year

Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Tickets for Alabama's Teacher of the Year to bring a class of up to 50 students to a SchoolFest performance, and two tickets each to Alabama's Teacher of the Year and Alternate to any performance

Alfa Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance Companies

Use of a 2008 Chevrolet Impala for one year for Alabama's Teacher of the Year

Barnes & Noble

\$500 Gift Cards for Alabama's Teacher of the Year and Alternate and \$100 Gift Cards for District Teachers of the Year

Blue Bell Creameries

Ice cream delivered to the schools of District Teachers of the Year

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Cash Award for Alabama's Teacher of the Year . . \$1,000

Compass Bank

Cash Award for Alabama's Teacher of the Year . . \$1,000
Cash Award for Alternate Teacher of the Year \$500

Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools

A Plaque for each District Teacher of the Year

Cracker Barrel

Gift Certificate for Alabama's Teacher of the Year

FedEx Kinkos

- Name Badges, Business Cards, Notecards, and Notepads for Alabama's Teacher of the Year and Alternate and District Teachers of the Year
- Banner for the school of Alabama's Teacher of the Year

Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, Inc.

Portfolios for Alabama's Teacher of the Year Nominees

Herff Jones

Ring for Alabama's Teacher of the Year

Lee and Lan Florist

Corsages and Boutonnieres for District Teachers of the Year

McAlee Computer Associates, Inc.

Cash Award for Alabama's Teacher of the Year . . \$1,200
Cash Award for Alternate Teacher of the Year . . . \$500
Grant Awards for 14 District Teachers of the Year . . \$200

School Superintendents of Alabama

Gift for Program Judges

Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation

A \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and a certificate for each District Teacher of the Year

SMART Technologies, Inc.

For Alabama's Teacher of the Year:

- A SMART Board™ 600i interactive whiteboard system featuring a built-in Unifi™ projector, an integrated audio system, and a SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- An Airliner™ wireless slate
- SMART Ideas concept-mapping software (school license)
- Bridgit™ data-conferencing software (two-year subscription for five users)
- SynchronEyes™ Classroom Management Software (computer lab license)

Software Technology, Inc.

Cash Award for Alabama's Teacher of the Year . . \$1,200
Cash Award for Alternate Teacher of the Year . . . \$500
Grant Awards for 14 District Teachers of the Year . . \$200

Data Recognition Corporation

Cash Award for Alabama's Teacher of the Year . . \$5,000



Roy Hudson

2008-2009 ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR
AND SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SHADES VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

If a school is to prepare young people to accept the challenges of life, then we as educators must challenge them first in an educational setting. If students don't feel the need to get better, then they won't. Expectations must be high, and students must realize that we will not accept mediocrity in anything that they do. That is how I have designed my classes and my program.

In educational terms, I embrace Patricia Atwell's philosophy of "what a child can do with help today, he can do alone tomorrow." Our faculty sets realistic goals for each student that they can achieve with help from one of the faculty or one of our advanced students who have been trained to mentor the basic students. In time, students begin to work more and more independently, and eventually, they begin to set goals for themselves. It is a classic example of instructional scaffolding utilizing both faculty and student mentors. We begin and end each semester with student self-evaluation sessions that start this process and establish goals and needs for each student. This way students are personally involved with their own educational plan, and it is not some random act outside the student's control. If they understand how the plan was developed, then they will work harder to make sure that they are being taught correctly.

I know that I am constantly challenged by teaching in this type of system by the students, the mentors, and the other faculty members. Are we pushing each student enough? Are we pushing them too much? Are we as faculty members doing enough? We are always seeking new ways to reach the students, and no two students are on the same educational track. I know that I attempt to work with each student in a different manner, trying out the approach that will achieve the best results. It is certainly not a science, and I know that I am not always successful, but I do feel that if I can instill the desire to do better in the student, results will follow. I come into each semester with new tools and new ideas, but the basic ground rule is the same – I expect each student to do his or her best.

EDUCATION

- Master of Arts, Secondary Education, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1996
- Master of Fine Arts in Theatre, Trinity University at the Dallas Theater Center, 1978
- Bachelor of Science in Education, Midwestern State University (Summa Cum Laude), Wichita Falls, Texas, 1974

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Developed the Shades Valley Theatre Academy where students from all over Jefferson County have come for intensive study in theatre and dance since 2003
- Co-founded STARS (Students Take a Role at the Samford) at the Virginia Samford Theatre, an Outreach Program that has given all children an opportunity to participate in the arts since 2005
- Co-founded the Class Act Program that identifies future theatre teachers and places them into elementary classrooms teaching creative dramatics, developed in 2002
- Served as Polly Holliday Scholarship Committee Chair, Southeastern Theatre Conference, 2006-2008
- Conducted workshops for the Alabama Humanities Foundation on Teaching Shakespeare in an English Classroom, 2006
- Served eight terms as chair of the Secondary Division of the Alabama Conference of Theatre and Director of the State Trumbauer Festival, 1997-2004

AWARDS

- Alabama Educational Theatre Association Hall of Fame Award, 2006
- Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts Outstanding Alumnus, Midwestern State University, 2004
- Alabama Conference of Theatre, Dorothy Schwartz Outstanding Educator's Award, 2000-2001
- Jefferson County Board of Education Secondary School Teacher of the Year, 1997-1998



Regina Everett

2008-2009 ALTERNATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR
AND ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SARALAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MOBILE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Teachers may give many reasons why they chose a career in education. My reason is probably a little different from most. I was a learning disabled child. Some of my earliest memories of school involve being struck on the hand with a ruler because I couldn't do my work. That is when I met my Title I teacher, who changed the course of my life. After two years with her, I was above grade level in reading. Having struggled with learning disabilities of my own gives me the ability to empathize with my students (especially those with learning challenges). I always start the year by sharing my story with them. They are amazed to hear I had learning challenges just like some of them. They begin to believe if their teacher can overcome these challenges, then so can they.

I am an advocate for the safety and well being of my students. Teaching several years in a high-poverty area taught me more than I ever learned in college. It taught me to really see my children. My students taught me that before you can reach a child's brain, you must touch his or her heart. If it meant buying crackers for a child who had not had breakfast, or buying jackets for children who had to walk to school, then that is what I did. When a child truly believes you care, they will work their heart out for you! Many teachers are so worried about teaching the curriculum they forget to teach the child. I never want to be guilty of that!

I understand the importance of positive self-esteem, making each child feel loved and needed in my classroom. Sometimes this can be achieved with a simple hug. Other times may require a little more attention, such as making sure Santa visits every house at Christmas or watching kids play ball on Saturday mornings. My classroom is a warm, safe place my children look forward to coming to each day. My philosophy of teaching is simple and can be summed up with a simple question I ask myself each and every day: "If I had been a child in my classroom today, would I want to come back to school tomorrow?" As long as I can keep answering "YES" to that question, I know I am being an effective teacher.

EDUCATION

- National Board Certified Teacher (NBPTS) - 2001
- Educational Specialist Degree, Elementary Education - University of South Alabama, 2003
- Masters of Education Degree, Elementary Education - University of South Alabama, 1993
- Bachelor of Science Degree, Elementary Education - University of South Alabama, 1990

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Student Teacher Supervisor/Mentor for 14 student teachers over the course of 18 years
- Volunteer Mentor for candidates going through the NBPTS process
- New Teacher Mentor
- Alabama Reading Initiative School Committee
- Workshops Presented (to name a few):
 - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards - MCPSS and SARIC (23 workshops)
 - Children's Literature Workshops - SARIC
 - Practical Tips for New and Experienced Teachers - SARIC
 - Talents Unlimited
 - Newspaper in Education
 - Incorporating the Multiple Intelligences Into Your Classroom

AWARDS

- 2008-2009 Elementary Teacher of the Year - Mobile County Public School System
- 2008-2009 Elementary Teacher of the Year - School Board District One - "Sweet 16"
- 2006-2007 Mobile County Public School System Elementary Teacher of the Year
- 2006-2007 Saraland Elementary Teacher of the Year - Mobile County Public School System