



**SANDY GARRETT
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

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12 Teachers Selected for 2011 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Competition



OKLAHOMA CITY - State Superintendent Sandy Garrett today announced the 12 finalists for 2011 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year as part of the final day of the Oklahoma Department of Education's 20th annual "Leadership" conference at the Tulsa Convention Center in Tulsa.

Representing all grade levels and core subjects and a few elective subjects, the 12 finalists reflect the high quality and passion of Oklahoma's teaching force, Garrett said.

"Teaching 21st century learners aren't for professionals who shy away from challenge or aren't interested in continuing to learn themselves," Garrett said. "These 12 individuals recognize and embrace that they have to embrace technology, harness the speed of which information and knowledge is shared today, and address the individual needs of students who, in this state, are becoming more diverse and poor.

Six state regional committees comprised of teachers and parents each selected two of the 12 finalists. A state committee comprised of education, business and civic leaders will choose the winner, with Garrett making the announcement in ceremonies at the Oklahoma State Fair in September.

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FIRST IN THE TWENTY-FIRST**



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"When I took office 20 years ago, the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year program was simply a certificate and a handshake," she said. "We sought to elevate this program and I'm proud that Oklahoma's program is now recognized as the nation's finest."

The winner represents Oklahoma in the national Teacher of the Year competition, receives more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes and serves as Oklahoma's "Ambassador of Teaching, presenting to teachers and civic groups throughout the state for one year.

The finalists for 2011 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year are:

Brandi Dickson teaches fourth grade at Cross Timbers Elementary School in **Tecumseh**.

Leesa Dickson teaches Reading at Westside Elementary School in **Claremore**.

Terri Foughty teaches sixth grade Reading and Language Arts at **Newcastle** Middle School.

Carol Hunsperger teaches third grade at **Grove** Lower Elementary School.

Karen Watson Lewis teaches eighth grade English and Reading at **Plainview** Middle School.

Kristi Lovett teaches Art and Studio Art at **Crescent** High School.

Lynette Miller teaches sixth grade Special Education, Mathematics and Language Arts at **Jenks** West Intermediate School.

Kendra Roulet teaches Advanced Placement U.S. History and Non-Western Culture at Charles Page High School in **Sand Springs**.

Elizabeth Smith teaches 7th grade Reading at **Byng** Junior High.

Kari Steele teaches 6th grade Pre-Advanced Placement Literature and Composition at **Deer Creek** Middle School.

Fran Stellman teaches Family and Consumer Sciences at **Stillwater** High School.

Meredith Wronowski teaches Biology, Chemistry and Biotechnology at Capitol Hill High School in **Oklahoma City**.

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