



## Tonya Lynn Boyle

H. Cecil Rhoades Elementary School  
Broken Arrow Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"It is my job as a teacher to facilitate that learning, which is why at the beginning of each school year, I plan activities about multiple intelligences so the children evaluate not how 'smart' they are, but 'how' they are smart."

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### Educational Preparation

B.S. in Elementary Education, University of Central Oklahoma  
M. Ed. in Elementary Administration, Eastern Kentucky University

### Current Teaching Position

5th Grade

### Years of Experience

7 years in present position  
22 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"My philosophy begins with a belief that all children can learn. It means that children can learn on their own time schedule, in their own style, starting at their own level."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"My message as Oklahoma Teacher of the Year would be to not be afraid of change but to embrace it and let it empower you. Change is part of reality. We can no longer do what we have always done, the students of today need more."





## Cynthia Brown

Piedmont High School  
Piedmont Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"I believe in encouraging students to take risks while writing and attempting new reading material. I know they are not going to learn if they don't make any mistakes."

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### Educational Preparation

B.A. in English, Texas Tech University  
M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, University of Texas at Arlington  
National Board Certified Teacher

### Current Teaching Position

11th-12th Grades; AP English Language and Composition, Humanities

### Years of Experience

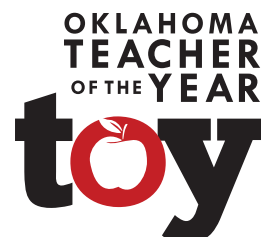
6 years in present position  
18 years total

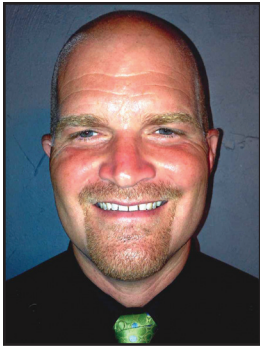
### Philosophy of Teaching

"An outstanding teacher should seek to motivate students to own their learning and find pleasure in it. Not only do students need motivation to learn, they also need support for their learning, which is another advantage of establishing trust in the classroom — I can challenge students to push themselves further than they think they can go."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Amidst the choppy sea of financial and political wrangling and dissention, teachers and their classrooms can be role models for working together to solve problems and using the resources we do have to achieve success, calmly steering our students toward success in the 21st century."





## Roger Clement

Noble High School  
Noble Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"Our 'teaching methods' should not consist of opening a book and telling kids to read a chapter and answer the questions at the end. We, as professional educators, must make learning exciting for our students."

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### Educational Preparation

B.A. in Science Education, University of Oklahoma

M. Ed. in Educational Administration, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

### Current Teaching Position

9th-12th Grades; Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry and Chemistry II

### Years of Experience

3 years in present position

9 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"Great educators don't just focus on preparing students for tests, instead they push students to develop the knowledge, logic, character, and communication skills that will make them successful for their next stage of life."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Each one of us came into this profession with dreams and aspirations of doing something greater for those around us. We took our first job knowing that the pay was not great and we would not become rich, but we signed up anyway."





## Amber L. Elder

James L. Dennis Elementary School  
Putnam City Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"I wholeheartedly believe that my purpose is to help people realize their potential and become lifelong learners."

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### Educational Preparation

B.S. in Elementary Education, Southern Nazarene University

### Current Teaching Position

1st-2nd Grades

### Years of Experience

2 years at present position

5 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"There are several main components in successfully guiding students to realize their potential: creating a safe and loving classroom environment, building one-on-one relationships, and differentiating learning based on the various needs of students. Students learn and develop at different rates, and I focus on pinpointing exactly where a student is developmentally."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"I would urge my fellow educators to take a deep look at the reality that research shows us about early literacy. My hope is to highlight how early childhood literacy can help alleviate many of the educational issues that students and teachers are faced with today."





## Adam Forester

Bethany High School  
Bethany Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"Today's learners, more than anytime in history, are begging and waiting to be engaged in the classroom. Teachers must rise to the occasion and answer this call."

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### Educational Preparation

B.A. in Science Education, University of Oklahoma

M. Ed. in Integrating Technology in Teaching, University of Oklahoma

### Current Teaching Position

10th-12th Grades; Chemistry, Pre-AP Chemistry, AP Chemistry and Earth Science

### Years of Experience

6 years in present position

6 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"Any person can give someone one example of how to do something, but only an outstanding teacher can provide each student with a personalized and patient explanation for what they are struggling with."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"The focus now must move to achieving the higher levels of thinking: applying, analyzing, evaluating and creating. There are many ways that teachers could achieve these skills within the classroom; however the use of technology can foster the 21st century skills that can benefit students in a technology focused way of life."





## Monica Hodgden

Woodward Early Childhood Center  
Woodward Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"As a national leader in early childhood education, Oklahoma has set a high standard, and as an Oklahoma teacher, I am proud of the commitment my state has made to our youngest learners."

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### Educational Preparation

B.S. in Home Economics (emphasis in early childhood education), Oklahoma State University

### Current Teaching Position

Pre-kindergarten

### Years of Experience

13 years in present position

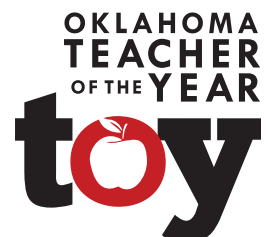
21 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"I begin my first day of school each year teaching my children the routines and expectations of our classroom. I call it 'training the troops.' The children quickly learn their responsibilities and my expectations for the classroom."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"As Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, my message will be to celebrate Oklahoma's accomplishments in providing one of the best early childhood programs in the nation."





## James LeGrand

Altus High School  
Altus Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"Teachers serve as bridges to success in our society as we are the facilitators of change, the voice of education, and the first faces of the adult world beyond those of the parents. Our influence is without measure, and it is a deep, deep responsibility."

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### Educational Preparation

B.A. in U.S. History in Education, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

### Current Teaching Position

9th-12th Grades; AP US History, Civil War and Reconstruction and America in the 1960s

### Years of Experience

10 years in present position

19 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"I do not believe an all encompassing, one specific formula for being an effective teacher exists. I think there is an individual process every educator has to go through to identify his or her own weaknesses, and find his or her own 'voice.'"

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"As the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, my message would be that education is a partnership between students and teachers, parents and teachers, and administrators and teachers. The common denominator in that equation is, as always, teachers."





## Jennifer Luttmer

Liberty Elementary School  
Sallisaw Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"I know as educators we are at our best when we move our teaching from our rubrics to our HEART. In this profession, 'KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE' is of utmost importance."

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### Educational Preparation

B.S. in Elementary Education, University of Central Oklahoma  
M. Ed. in School Administration, Northeastern State University

### Current Teaching Position

2nd Grade

### Years of Experience

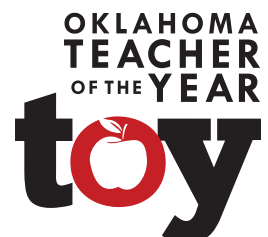
6 years in present position  
8 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"Along with a solid classroom management system, love must play an equal role for an educator to be successful. A successful educator must love her profession and love her students unconditionally."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"With all the changes in education it has been easy to lose sight of the student as a person with feelings, emotions, and far too many adult issues than they should have to bear."







## Romney Nesbitt

Jenks West Intermediate School  
Jenks Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"My gift in exchange for these teaching moments is to create an environment of encouragement where my students can learn to create, problem solve, gain independence and develop self-confidence; skills they need to succeed in our global society."

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### Educational Preparation

M. Div., Phillips Theological Seminary (Tulsa)  
M.A. in Painting, University of Tulsa  
B.F.A. in Art, William Woods University (Missouri)

### Current Teaching Position

5th-6th Grades; Art

### Years of Experience

7 years in present position  
12 years total (in public schools)

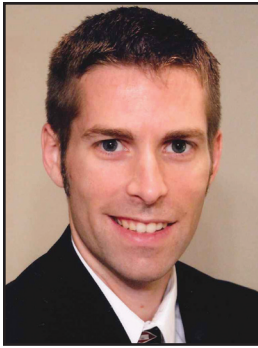
### Philosophy of Teaching

"The art room is a laboratory of life where students express their creativity and learn about living in the present and the future. Connections to real life provide incentives for students to give their best."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"To educate tomorrow's leaders, it will take all we have to give as teachers and it will take forward thinking school boards that value and nurture creativity, curiosity, and confidence. These three Cs are the skills and character traits our students need to succeed in life. To educate tomorrow's leaders we need dedicated teachers and administrators, involved parents, attentive lawmakers and innovative business leaders in our communities."





## Jason Scott Proctor

Tahlequah High School  
Tahlequah Public Schools

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER

**2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST**

“My greatest reward in teaching comes often years after a student has left my class when I get a call or a note from a former student. They almost always express gratitude as they share how they are impacting lives of others around them.”

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### **Educational Preparation**

M. Ed. in Art of Teaching, Marygrove College (Michigan)  
B.A. in Chemistry Education, Ferris State University (Michigan)  
National Board Certified Teacher

### **Current Teaching Position**

9th-12th Grades; Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Advanced Placement Calculus

### **Years of Experience**

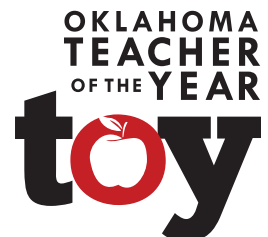
8 years in present position  
12 years total

### **Philosophy of Teaching**

“Years ago I learned that the results I witnessed from students directly correlated to the relationships I built with those students. The more I invested in the individual the further we go. Developing a foundation of trust and genuine concern has been my goal with any and all students who are open.”

### **Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message**

“Be intentional about your passion and developing a resilient spirit so you can weather the challenges, finish stronger, and not be satisfied with anything but your best.”





## **Diane Walker**

Muskogee High School  
Muskogee Public Schools

### **2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST**

"Teaching involves a continued pursuit to stay aware of trends, professional developments, and new opportunities. I set an example for my students when I continue to learn as an adult."

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### **Educational Preparation**

B.S. in Elementary Education, Northeastern State University  
M. Ed. in Elementary Counseling, Northeastern State University  
National Board Certified Teacher

### **Current Teaching Position**

9th-10th Grades; All Honors Oklahoma History, World History, Government and Geography

### **Years of Experience**

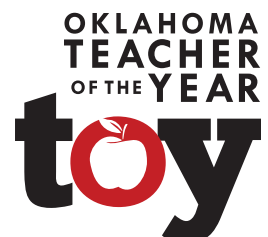
4 years in present position  
21 years total

### **Philosophy of Teaching**

"As a teacher, I am a guardian of the future. Those I teach and touch today will be leading our communities and world tomorrow."

### **Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message**

"My message has three parts, or LRC. To pass on the 'Love of learning' from teacher to student, to mold and practice 'Respect for learning,' and to instill 'Citizenship' in students who are the future leaders of our communities and world."





## LeaAnn J. Wyrick

McCall Middle School  
Atoka Public Schools

### 2015 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST

"My students don't just learn history, they 'experience' history. I have found when they are engaged in projects they find challenging and interesting, the possibilities for retention and in-depth learning are endless."

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### Educational Preparation

B.A. in Sociology, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

### Current Teaching Position

6th-7th Grades; Geography

### Years of Experience

2 years in present position

6 years total

### Philosophy of Teaching

"Teachers must strive to create a classroom environment that is inspiring, respectful, and conducive for in depth learning."

### Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Good teachers value academics, but understand the kid is ultimately more important than the test score. Our profession is one of the most difficult, yet most invaluable on the planet. We must continue our journey to educate generations, empower conquerors and make a positive impact on the future of a nation."

