



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

2013-2014
**ARKANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
AWARD PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Sponsored by
Arkansas Department of Education
Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education**

2013-2014 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Application Packet

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Mission Statement

The Arkansas Teacher of Year (ATOY) program,
under the leadership of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE),
identifies, recognizes, and utilizes representatives
of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms
in Arkansas public schools.

The mission of the ATOY program is to promote
the profession and recognize quality teachers
implementing "best practices"
in Arkansas public school classrooms.

The Awards Program

The classroom teacher is the backbone of the American educational system. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the primary learning and instructional environment. The National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

Now in its 61st year, the statewide competition is part of the NTOY Program, sponsored by Target®, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the ING Foundation, the University of Phoenix and People to People Ambassador Programs.

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) Awards Program, co-sponsored by the ADE and the State Board of Education, is an annual event designed to recognize outstanding elementary, middle, and high school teachers from each local school system throughout the state. The program provides an opportunity to focus public attention on excellence in classroom teaching.

Act 17 of the 2006 Legislative Special Session mandates that public schools in Arkansas participate in this recognition program. Act 17 requires that the Arkansas State Board of Education annually recognize an ATOY.

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year will be placed on administrative paid leave for one year to Work-in-Residence with the ADE and to develop professional development and provide technical assistance to teachers and students, etc. The ATOY will serve as ambassador for education in Arkansas, making public appearances across the state. The ATOY is nominated to represent Arkansas in the National Teacher of the Year program.