



# Arkansas Teacher of the Year Program

## Background Information

- The Arkansas Teacher of the Year competition is part of the **National Teacher of the Year Program** (NTOY). The NTOY program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.
- The National Teacher of the Year 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.
- **Act 17** of the 2006 First Extraordinary Session of the 85th Arkansas General Assembly provides for the Arkansas Teacher of the Year recipient to take a year of paid administrative leave to serve in an advisory position as a non-voting member to the Arkansas State Board of Education and for professional development purposes. Act 17 was also amended to broaden the program process overseeing the ATOY program, including allocating \$125,000 in funding.
- The ATOY serves as ambassador for education in Arkansas, and represents Arkansas in the NTOY program.
- The ATOY serves as a non-voting member of the State Board of Education, and Work-in-Residence with ADE will be placed on administrative paid leave for one year
- Funding from The Walton Family Foundation for ATOY began in 1998.