



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Scott Shaddox, a teacher at Omaha High School in Omaha School District, was named the 2010 Arkansas Preserve America History Teacher of the Year during a ceremony today at the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). The award is co-sponsored by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Preserve America, and HISTORY™. ADE Deputy Commissioner Tony Wood presented Shaddox with a \$1,000 honorarium as part of the award. In addition, Omaha High School's library will receive a core archive of history books and educational materials from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and HISTORY™.

Shaddox uses technology, particularly a SMART Board, to demonstrate primary sources in his American history classes, thus making history lessons both relevant and tangible for students. Shaddox, who has taught in Arkansas schools for 17 years, further invites technology into his classroom through the use of blogs. Students use the social media format to discuss historical concepts, request help with assignments, and comment on current events or past history. Shaddox says he wants students to understand how the shaping of America relates to their lives, and he helps students draw relationships between current and historical events.

The Preserve America History Teacher of the Year Award was inaugurated in 2004 to promote and celebrate the teaching of American history in classrooms across the United States. The award honors one exceptional kindergarten through 12th-grade teacher of American history from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and U.S. Territories. The 2010 award honors middle and high school teachers of grades seven through 12. The selection of the state winner is based upon several criteria, including:

- at least three years of classroom experience in teaching American history
- a deep career commitment to teaching American history, which includes local and state history
- creativity and imagination in the classroom that address literacy and content beyond state standards
- close attention to primary documents, artifacts, historic sites, and other primary materials of history, including oral history
- evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.