



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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WEST MEMPHIS: Cheers and applause greeted first-grade teacher Tamika Jordan when she learned she was a 2010 Milken Educator Award recipient during a surprise awards assembly today at Avondale Elementary School in the Marion School District.

Governor Mike Beebe, Arkansas Education Commissioner Tom W. Kimbrell and Milken Family Foundation representative Gary Stark, president and chief executive officer of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, all took part in the ceremony, during which they presented Jordan with a mock check for \$25,000. She will receive the real one when she attends the national awards ceremony for the Milken Educators in the spring.

Jordan has worked as an educator for 11 years, and has been teaching at Avondale Elementary since 2003. Colleagues speak highly of both her ability to engage all student in high levels of learning as well as her expertise in using technology in the classroom. Jordan holds a bachelor's degree in education with a focus in early childhood from the University of Memphis and a master's degree in education with a focus in instructional technology from American Continental University.

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.