

# News Release



*Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner*

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## **SPRINGDALE, DREW CENTRAL TEACHERS TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENTIAL MATH AND SCIENCE AWARD IN WASHINGTON**

Two exemplary Arkansas teachers — Stacey Dominguez, a kindergarten math teacher at Shaw Elementary in Springdale, and Eva Arrington, a fourth-grade science teacher at Drew Central Elementary in Monticello — are among the 85 teachers chosen nationwide for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

“Ms. Dominguez encourages kids to be thoughtful about math,” says Springdale Superintendent Jim Rollins. “For her, it’s not just memorizing formulas and plugging in numbers. She relates well to every child and her passion comes forward in every presentation she makes.”

“Ms. Arrington makes science about real life situations,” says Mike Johnston, principal of Drew Central Elementary. “With anything her class learns, there is an activity involved. She involves every student. She involves the parents. She involves the community. We’re very proud of her.”

The White House announced the award recipients. They will attend an awards ceremony in Washington during an expense-paid trip May 16 to May 20 that will include visits with Congress and administration staff. Each winner receives a \$10,000 reward from the National Science Foundation. The award honors outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers. Winners are chosen by a panel of nationally-renowned scientists, mathematicians, and educators.

Ms. Dominguez has taught in the Springdale district for 16 years. She is a pioneer in the Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) teaching technique which emphasizes discovery of math fundamentals in real-world situations. For example, children are taught division by taking a bag of cookies at a table and figuring out how many each of them should

receive.

“Stacey has been a leader in CGI for six years, even training other teachers in the technique,” Shaw Principal Cynthia Voss says.

Ms. Arrington has taught in the Drew Central district for the last 17 years. Like Ms. Dominquez, she uses examples from real life in helping her students understand educational concepts. She once had her students adopt a pretend dog to help them learn everything that an animal needs to stay alive and healthy. She also blends references from literature in her science lessons.

“She makes frequent contact with parents,” Johnston says. “If there are misunderstandings, she clears them up quickly.”

Arkansas Education Commissioner Tom Kimbrell congratulates the winners, describing them as examples of the great work by teachers all over Arkansas.

“Arkansans should be proud of these teachers,” Kimbrell says. “We celebrate their accomplishments as we work to build upon achievements in schools across the state.”

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See the White House press release at ...

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/28/president-honors-outstanding-math-and-science-teachers>