

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share this:    



## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Tony Wood, Commissioner*

**September 11, 2014**

CONTACT: Kimberly Friedman  
PHONE: (501) 683-4788  
[kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov](mailto:kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov)

### **2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists Announced**

**LITTLE ROCK** – Fifteen outstanding teachers from around the state have been selected as 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists. Gov. Mike Beebe will recognize them at a ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 16 in the Old Supreme Court Room at the Capitol. The top four finalists will be announced at the event.

“Each year we are pleased to recognize some of the best teachers around the state,” said Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Tony Wood. “Their commitment to their students and community is exemplary, and we applaud them for their dedication to education.”

The 15 regional finalists are as follows:

- **Amy Becker**  
4th Grade Language Arts and Social Studies  
Noble/Allbritton Elementary  
Hamburg School District  
Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
- **Jason Bridges**  
10th-12th Grade AP Calculus and AP World History  
Greenwood High School  
Greenwood School District  
Western Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
- **Donna C. Dillahunt**  
5th Grade English Language Arts  
Marion Intermediate School  
Marion School District  
Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative
- **Larry Cornelius Dunn**  
7th-12th Grade Vocal Music

Magnolia Junior High School and Magnolia High School  
Magnolia School District  
South Central Education Service Cooperative

- **Kathy Glewen**  
5th Grade Literacy  
Southwest Middle School  
Searcy School District  
Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative
- **Lindsay S. Griffin**  
6th Grade Literacy  
Greenbrier Middle School  
Greenbrier School District  
Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative
- **Steven Helmick**  
5th Grade  
Don. R. Roberts Elementary School  
Little Rock School District  
Pulaski County
- **Tifanie King**  
Kindergarten  
Wonder Elementary School  
West Memphis School District  
Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative
- **Jayna Moffit**  
7th-8th Grade Math  
Lincoln Junior High School  
Bentonville School District  
Northwest Education Service Cooperative
- **William K. Morelan**  
7th-12th Grade English/Journalism  
Oark High School  
Jasper School District  
Ozarks Unlimited Resource Education Service Cooperative
- **Ouida R. Newton**  
7th-12th Grade Math  
Poyen High School  
Poyen School District  
Dawson Education Service Cooperative
- **Cheryl L. Smith**  
6th Grade Math  
Meekins Middle School  
Stuttgart School District  
Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative
- **Mary Smith**  
9th-12th Grade Business Education

Walnut Ridge High School  
Lawrence County School District  
Northeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

- **Betty Thornton**  
10th-12th Grade English/Spanish  
Calico Rock High School  
Calico Rock School District  
Northcentral Arkansas Education Service Cooperative
- **Denise Ward**  
Kindergarten-4th Grade Physical Education  
Kilpatrick Elementary School  
Texarkana Arkansas School District  
Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative

The Arkansas program is part of the National Teacher of the Year program, which began in 1952. Teachers are nominated and selected each year based on their teaching skills and practices, school and community leadership, and dedication to students, parents and colleagues.

The Walton Family Foundation, a long-time supporter of the program, is providing a grant for the program. As a result, each regional finalist will receive a \$1,000 award. The 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year will receive an additional \$14,000.

The ATOY selection committee will conduct site visits for the four finalists. A surprise notification announcing the 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year will follow.

A reception for the 15 regional finalists will be held in Room 207 at the Capitol immediately after the event Sept. 16. The Arkansas Exemplary Educators Network, comprised of former ATOYs and Milken Educators, will meet at 12 p.m. in Conference Room 201-A at the Arkansas Department of Education. State Board of Education members may be in attendance at all events, but no official State Board of Education business will be conducted.

To learn more about the ATOY program and how to nominate an outstanding teacher in the future, go to <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

Follow us on Twitter [@ArkansasEd](#).  
Like us on Facebook at [Arkansas Department of Education](#).

**ArkansasEd.**  **rg**

Arkansas Department of Education | Four Capitol Mall | Little Rock, AR 72201

This email was sent to [kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov](mailto:kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov). To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using [TrueRemove®](#).

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

