



# Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

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## **Arkansas Teachers, Librarians to Be Recognized at Declaration of Learning Celebration**

**LITTLE ROCK** — More than 20 Arkansas teachers and librarians will be recognized Nov. 14, 2016, for their contribution to the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program.

The Arkansas Department of Education partnered with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies and the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms in 2015 to launch the program. During the first year, 26 Arkansas teachers and school librarians used objects and art selected from partners' collections to create lesson plans that highlight state and national civic engagement. The William J. Clinton Presidential Center joined the partnership in 2016.

“The Arkansas Declaration of Learning program has provided a wonderful opportunity for Arkansas educators to use state and national resources to teach students in grades 7 through 12 about the importance of civic engagement,” said Cassandra Barnett, the ADE program advisor for school libraries. “As a result of the groundwork laid by these first-year participants, teachers from around the country will have access in the near future to the lesson plans developed by these teachers.”

A public event that recognizes the teachers and highlights their first-year efforts will be held at 10 a.m. at the Central Arkansas Library System's Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 401 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock. The event will feature presentations by some of the program's exemplary educators.

ADE Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mark Gotcher will be a keynote speaker during the public and press event at 1 p.m. at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center at 1200 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock.

Arkansas is the first state to participate in the Declaration of Learning program. The U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms is leading the initiative, which is part of a national Inter-Agency Educational Initiative that began when representatives from 13 national partnering organizations signed the Declaration of Learning in 2013.

This document pledged that the U.S. Department of State, the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and 11 other national organizations would work with state and local partners to co-create learning tools for educators and students in middle and secondary education using historical art and objects from their respective collections.

For more information about the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program, contact Cassandra Barnett at (501) 682-6576. Media inquiries may be directed to Kimberly Friedman, ADE director of communications, at (501) 683-4788.

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