



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUR ARKANSAS EDUCATORS TO TRAVEL TO TAIWAN

Four Arkansas educators have been selected to be the first from the state to participate in the English Teachers Exchange program that will allow them to experience the education system in Taiwan first-hand this year. The exchange program resulted from an agreement signed between the Taiwan and Arkansas governments last fall and allows a principal to spend nearly two weeks in Taiwan this summer and teachers to spend a year there teaching in schools throughout the country.

"We are pleased that Arkansas is taking part in this program," said Dr. Ken James, Arkansas Commissioner of Education. "Not only will this opportunity prove a fantastic experience for these selected educators, but we anticipate all four will bring a wealth of excitement, knowledge and increased cultural understanding home to their schools. What a window on this part of the world they will be able to provide their students!"

The Arkansas principal selected had to have Chinese courses taught at the high school. The principal selected was:

- Nancy Rousseau, Little Rock Central High School

At the invitation of the Ministry of Education of Taiwan, Rousseau will observe the Chinese language program in Taiwan from July 6 to July 14.

The three teachers selected for the exchange program are:

- Silas Irving Granderson, a physical science teacher at Elmwood Junior High School in Rogers
- Marilyn Hodgkin, an elementary English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) facilitator at Grimes Elementary School in Rogers
- Carolyn Scott, a second grade teacher at Lowell Elementary School in Rogers

More than 20 Arkansas teachers expressed interest in the exchange program after it was first announced in late October. Of the eleven who submitted applications, three were selected and able to make the commitment for the year.

Teachers will be under an 11-month contract with Taiwan's Ministry of Education, beginning in August 2007. After a month of orientation, the teachers will be assigned to a school and will work with students and teachers there in learning the English language. The teachers' salaries will be provided by the government of Taiwan, and the government will assist them with housing as well.

Arkansas joins Indiana, Iowa, Ohio and Michigan as states that have agreements with Taiwan for the teacher travel program. Canada and the United Kingdom are countries with similar agreements with Taiwan.

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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.