



# **ARKANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

***2008-2009***  
***PROGRAM APPLICATION PACKET***

**Sponsored by**  
**Arkansas Department of Education**  
**T. Kenneth James, Ed.D.**  
**Commissioner of Education**

# ***2008-2009 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Application Packet***

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# ***Mission Statement***

The Arkansas Teacher of Year (ATOY) program,  
under the leadership of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE),  
identifies, recognizes, and utilizes representatives  
of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms  
in Arkansas public schools.

The mission of the ATOY program is to promote  
the profession and recognize quality teachers  
implementing "best practices"  
in Arkansas public school classrooms.

# *The Awards Program*

The classroom teacher is the backbone of the American educational system. No one person has a greater impact on the education of a child than does the teacher who creates the primary learning and instructional environment. The National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

Now in its 58th year, the statewide competition is part of the NTOY Program, sponsored by the **ING**  Foundation and is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, in which a National Teacher of the Year is selected.

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) Awards Program, co-sponsored by the ADE and the State Board of Education, is an annual event designed to recognize outstanding elementary, middle, and high school teachers from each local school system throughout the state. The program provides an opportunity to focus public attention on excellence in classroom teaching.

Act 17 of the 2006 Legislative Special Session mandates that public schools in Arkansas participate in this recognition program. Act 17 requires that the Arkansas State Board of Education annually recognize an ATOY.

The Arkansas Teacher of the Year will be placed on administrative paid leave for one year to Work-in-Residence with the ADE and to develop professional development and provide technical assistance to teachers and students, etc. The ATOY will serve as ambassador for education in Arkansas, making public appearances across the state. The ATOY is nominated to represent Arkansas in the National Teacher of the Year program.

# Application Outline

## 2008-2009 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

**Instructions for Completing Items II-VI:** Please limit your answers to the number of pages requested in each section – **type size no smaller than 10 point**. In order to provide all applicants with an equal opportunity, only the number of pages requested will be accepted.

### 1. General Information

Complete the General Information Questionnaire with all required signatures.

### 2. Educational History and Professional Development Activities—(List information in Bulleted form—Maximum 2 double-spaced pages).

- A. Beginning with most recent, list colleges and universities attended including postgraduate studies. Indicate degrees earned and dates of attendance.
- B. Beginning with most recent, list teaching employment history indicating time period, grade level and subject area.
- C. Beginning with most recent, list professional association memberships including information regarding offices held and other relevant activities.
- D. Beginning with most recent, list staff development leadership activities and leadership activity in the training of future teachers.
- E. Beginning with the most recent, list awards and other recognition of your teaching.

### 3. Philosophy of Teaching—(Maximum 2 double-spaced pages)

- A. Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes you an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching.
- B. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?

### 4. Education Issues and Trends—(Maximum 2 double-spaced pages)

- A. What do you consider to be the major public education issues today? Address **one** in depth, outlining possible causes, effects and resolutions.

### 5. Cite evidence of student achievement gains as a result of your classroom instructional practices— (Maximum 2 double- spaced pages)

- A. Provide individual success stories as well as quantitative data that illustrate gains in student achievement; i.e. individual or class gains on DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment), Benchmark exams, Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), or other assessments.

### 6. Letters of Support—(limit of three letters, single space, each a MAXIMUM of one page)

- A. Include three letters of support from any of the following: superintendent, principal, administrator, colleague, student / former student, parent, or civic leader.