ALABAMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

- ALABAMA ASSOC. OF SCHOOL BOARDS - Gift Cards for the District Teachers
- ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION and ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Grant awards to be used for classroom and/or instructional improvement:
  - Alabama Teacher of the Year: $2,500
  - Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year: $1,500
  - Two Finalists: $750 each
- District Teachers of the Year: $500 each
- ALABAMA PTA - Gift Baskets
- ALABAMA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - Program Support
- ALFA FARMERS FEDERATION and ALFA INSURANCE COMPANIES Use of a 2013 Chevrolet Impala for one year for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- BAPTIST HEALTH - Trophy for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- BLUE BELL CREAMERIES Ice cream delivered to the schools of District Teachers of the Year
- CHAPPY’S DELL - Program Support
- EMBASSY SUITES - Gift Certificate for Alternate Teacher of the Year
- INSIGHT CARD SERVICE - Program Support
- LOUISA’S BAKERY - Program Support
- COUNCIL FOR LEADERS IN ALABAMA SCHOOLS
  - A plaque for each District Teacher of the Year and Trophy for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- CRACKER BARREL - Gift Certificate for Alabama Teacher of the Year

- GOODWYN MILLS AND CAWOOD, INC. – Portfolios for Alabama Teacher of the Year Nominees
- LEE AND LAN FLORENT - Conaugos and Boutonnieres for District Teachers of the Year
- PEARSON EDUCATION - Trophy for Alabama Alternate Teacher of the Year
- SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS OF ALABAMA - Program Support
- ALABAMA SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION - Cash Award for Alabama Teacher of the Year
- SMART TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
  - For Alabama Teacher of the Year:
    - A SMART Board 600i interactive whiteboard system featuring a built-in UniFi™ projector, an integrated audio system, and a SMART Board interactive whiteboard
    - An Airliner™ wireless slate
    - SMART Ideas concept-mapping software (school license)
    - Bridgit™ data-conferencing software (two-year subscription for five users)
    - Synchronize™ Classroom Management Software (computer lab license)
- SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY, INC.
  - Cash Award for Alabama Teacher of the Year: $5,000
  - Cash Award for Alternate Teacher of the Year: $300
  - Grant Awards for 14 District Teachers of the Year: $200
- DATA RECOGNITION CORPORATION Cash Award for Alabama Teacher of the Year: $2,500
- A+ EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP - Program Support

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The Alabama State Board of Education and Alabama State Department of Education sponsor the Alabama Teacher of the Year program. The National Teacher of the Year program, presented by the英特尔 Foundation, is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.

The Alabama State Department of Education’s Communication Office sends the application booklets to local superintendents, elementary school principals, and secondary school principals. The booklet describes the guidelines for selection of the State Teacher of the Year.

A school-level Teacher of the Year selection committee solicits nominees and selects the school’s Teacher(s) of the Year (elementary and secondary). The committee forwards the application(s) of its honoree(s), along with a cover letter from the principal, to the school system superintendent for participation in the system-level selection.

Once the system-level selection committee has chosen its Teacher of the Year honorees, applications are sent to the Alabama Site Department of Education with a cover letter from the local superintendent. The letter acknowledges that the applications represent the school system’s official nominees for the system level of the selection process. The applications from each local school system will be reviewed by a district-level Teacher of the Year selection committee in each of the eight State Board of Education districts. Each committee will select a district elementary Teacher of the Year and a district secondary Teacher of the Year for a total of 16 district honorees. Following the selection process the 16 district finalists submit a ten-minute video presentation taken in their classrooms. The State Committee, representing the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, professional educators, education-related organizations, the PTA, and business and community leaders, reviews the applications and videos and selects two teachers from each category. One elementary and one secondary teacher are selected from the top four. The State Committee selects the Teacher of the Year and the Alternate Teacher of the Year.
I taught the calling to be a teacher until an afternoon shortly after college graduation when my dad said, "my dream for you is that you choose a profession that you love and every day you feel as if you got paid to play." I knew then that I wanted to teach. But, I knew that I wanted to teach in a district that may have more difficulty attracting and retaining talented teachers. I knew that I wanted to teach students who had not been afforded all of the opportunities that I had been given growing up. I wanted to be an agent for change. Once I began teaching in the Ensley/Pratt City community, I developed a strong passion for students and their learning. I learned that for many students I served as a gateway for the future. My students needed me to be the best teacher I could be, and this encouraged me each day to be better and more committed than I was the day before.

In my fourteen years in the classroom, I have yet to leave school believing that I had reached all of my goals and impacted each child in my class. I am in constant reflection about how I can be better and achieve more. I know that my students need me to unlock the gate to their talents and their abilities. As a teacher, I strive to create high expectations for my students and support these expectations with a nurturing, caring environment. In my experience in the urban district, relationships with students are the key to success. From day one, I devote myself to creating a “culture of caring” in my classroom. I show a genuine interest in my students and their success. I work to scaffold instruction so that my students can experience opportunities for success, thus lessening mathematical anxiety and creating student buy-in. My students know that I want the best for them and want them to be successful not only in my classroom but in their lives. This relationship is at the foundation of everything that we do inside and outside of the classroom.

**EDUCATION**

- Walden University- Doctorate of Education, Specialization in Teacher Leadership, 2010
- National Board Certification in Secondary Mathematics, 2009
- University of Alabama at Birmingham - Masters of Arts, Specialization in Secondary Mathematics Education, 1999
- Denison University - Bachelors of Arts - Double Major: Mathematics and English, 1997

**LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

- Laying the Foundation – Trainer for Mathematics Year One (2010-Present)
- Classroom Organization and Management Program Trainer (2007-Present)
- Presenter at National Conference of Parent Involvement (Fall 2008)
- Member of panel discussion, Alabama Staff Development Council Fall Conference (2007)
- Facilitator, Birmingham City Schools New Teacher Induction (2009-Present)
- Multiple Workshops for Birmingham City Schools Teachers Including Topics Such as Implementing Statistics in the Common Core, Cultivating Teacher Leaders, Vertical Teaming, Quality Mentoring, Accomplished Teaching, Curriculum Design, Assessment, Differentiating Instruction (2003-2013)
- Principal Leadership Team (2006-present)
- Continuous Improvement Team (2006-present)
- Title I Targeted Assistance Program Team Member (2009-Present)
- Co-Chairperson of SACS-CAI School-Based Accreditation Team (2006-2007)
- School Professional Development Team (2007-2010)
- School-Based National Urban Alliance Liaison (2008-2009)
- Advisory Board for BCS National Board Candidate Support Program (2007-2008)

**AWARDS**

- Secondary Teacher of the Year, State Board School District IV (2013-2014)
- Birmingham City Schools Secondary Teacher of the Year (2013)
- P.D. Jackson Olin High School Teacher of the Year (2013)
- Birmingham City Schools Teacher Recognition Award (May 2013; May 2005)

**AWARDS**

- 2013 District Finalists (State Awards and STI Grant Award)
  - Lauren Brannam, J. E. Turner Elementary, Mobile County School System
  - Wanda Buckelew, McKenzie High, Butler County School System
  - Tracy Pruitt, Montgomer City Magnet, Dothan County School System
  - Barbara Nelson, Northview High, Dothan City School System
  - Ginger Aaron, Valley Elementary, Sumter County School System
  - Jeff Johnson, Hoover High, Hoover City School System
  - Jeramey Ivey, Hall Elementary, Homewood City School System
  - Dr. Alison Grizzle, Jackson Olin High, Birmingham City School System
  - Lauren Breeding, Wilson Elementary, Montgomery County School System
  - Donna Hughes, Saraland Middle, Saraland City School System
  - Lisa Mau, Peter Bohannon Elementary, Calhoun County School System
  - John Griffin, Wellington High, Calhoun County School System
  - Martha Elizabeth Fulmer, Fayette County School System
  - Kathryn Perkins, Verner Elementary, Tuscaloosa City School System
  - Mary Elizabeth Parker, Sparkman Middle, Madison County School System
  - Farrah Kilgo, Ixale Elementary, Etowah County School System

For information about the Alabama Teacher of the Year Program and the Speakers Bureau, contact: Ann Starrs
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