

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dr. Sharon Lease, OEHF Executive Director, (405) 692-3190

EDUCATORS HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INDUCTEES FOR 2014

(Oklahoma City, OK) -- The Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame (OEHF) Board of Directors today announced the names of this year's inductees: Dr. Kent Shellenberger, Bethany; Glenda Belle Sullivan, Lawton; and Betty J.C. Wright, Oklahoma City.

"Our Board is proud to have selected such accomplished educators to join the 88 leaders who have been inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame since its inception in 1984," OEHF Executive Director Sharon Lease said.

Nominees for the annual honor are evaluated in seven areas: Professional Experience, Recognitions and Awards, Professional Model, Research, Educational Service, Community Service and Leadership. After induction, the 2014 inductees' portraits will be added to those on display in the Hodge Education Building, State Capitol Complex, Oklahoma City.

- **Dr. Kent Shellenberger**, superintendent of Bethany Public Schools since 1997 and an adjunct professor at Southern Nazarene University since 1990, has been an Oklahoma educator for nearly 40 years. Prior to becoming a superintendent, Dr. Shellenberger worked for the Putnam City and Yukon Public schools starting out as a business education teacher and coach, and later becoming a principal. Currently a governor's appointee to the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability and the Special Education Task Force, Dr. Shellenberger is also the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators' state representative to its national leadership conventions. In addition, he authors a quarterly column for Better Schools, a publication of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration.
- Recognized in Oklahoma and nationally as a geographic education advocate, **Glenda B. Sullivan** was named Lawton Teacher of the Year in 1996, and was the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Medal Winner for Secondary Education in 1995. A classroom teacher of more than 27 years, Mrs. Sullivan is known for employing applied research in her "teach-the-teacher" workshops and programs she coordinates for the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education (OKAGE). Because her husband was in the military, 16 years were spent in Oklahoma, primarily in Lawton Public Schools until she retired in 2001, but she has also taught in schools in Germany (Department of Defense), Kansas, Missouri and Texas. In 2010, Mrs. Sullivan was presented the Outstanding Support for Geography Education Award by the National Council for Geographic Education.
- **Betty J.C. Wright** has spent most of her 49-year teaching career in Oklahoma but began as the only minority teacher at the American School in Mainz, Germany, in 1964. When

her husband was transferred to Ft. Sill, she taught at a school for black students but later that same year was recruited to help integrate a school on Lawton's north side. In just a few short months, she felt accepted by the students, parents and community. In 1979, she was recognized by the Lawton Chamber of Commerce for the system of teaching economic principles she had developed at Crosby Elementary. She also taught in the PROMISE program for Oklahoma City Public Schools, providing gifted programs for students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Among many awards and honors, she received the George Washington Honor Medal for Excellence in Economic Education in 1988, and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching in 1991. Regent Wright has also served 22 years on the Board of Regents for Rose State College, currently as vice president.

OEHF President Stacy Nix, Tulsa, stated, "Each of these educators deserves our gratitude for a lifetime of service preparing children and adults for their futures. Moreover, we appreciate the extent of their efforts in helping move our state forward."

The 2014 Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony will be held on **Friday, August 1, at Quail Creek Golf and Country Club, Oklahoma City.**

The Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame was incorporated in 1984 as a nonprofit organization to recognize and honor those professionals who have exemplified a commitment to quality public-supported education while demonstrating exceptional abilities in realizing the ideals of research, service or leadership through their contribution to Oklahoma education. The Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame is co-sponsored by the Oklahoma chapters of Phi Delta Kappa International, many private donors and other underwriting organizations.

-OEHF-

EDITORS: Attached to e-mail are JPGs of the inductees. If you need further assistance, feel free to contact Wendy Pratt, (405) 999-8784.