Cindy Bailey

Altus Public Schools
Altus High School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"*Attitude is everything* is a motto that makes everyday life in the classroom a place where students and teachers can reach their full potential."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Education from Lubbock Christian University/West Texas A&M University
National Board Certified Teacher

Current Teaching Position

9th–12th Grade Algebra 1, Geometry, Pre-Calculus; ACT Prep

Years of Experience

11 years in present position
14 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

"Never say, 'It is not my job,' and never say, 'I wish I had.'
The students I teach are America's future, and they deserve the very best."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"We as teachers need to examine our teaching practices, determine why we do, what we do and formulate a plan of improvement to increase rigor in the classroom."

Carol Brinsfield

Checotah Public Schools
Checotah Intermediate School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"I look forward to going to school each day to offer instruction to my students, as well as learn from them. I try to live by the Golden Rule and have found working with children to be a blessing from God."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Education from Northeastern State University
M.Ed. in Reading Instruction
National Board Certified Teacher

Current Teaching Position

3rd and 4th Grade Reading

Years of Experience

4 years in present position
16 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

"I believe an outstanding teacher lives in the moment and works to keep a positive attitude with students, parents, and colleagues."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Reading is the key to learning."

Andrea Brock

Moore Public Schools
Moore West Junior High

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"When a child says, 'You make math fun and easy,'
when a parent states, 'My child loves math for the first time,'
and when a former student proclaims, 'I still use your math songs,'
I know I am making a difference."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Elementary Education/Minor in Liberal Arts
from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Mathematics
from University of Texas at Arlington

Current Teaching Position

7th Grade Math

Years of Experience

3 years in present position
8 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

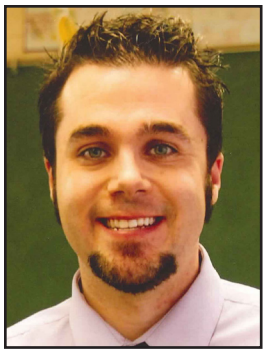
"I pride myself in connecting with each student and instilling the fun in learning by negating math anxiety, building positive attitudes, and helping all students believe that they can be successful."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"As teachers, our passion is to see beyond standardized test scores, make a difference, reach the unreachable, help our students build confidence and character, and impact lives realizing that we are not born into this era by chance."

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Daniel Buckmaster

Oklahoma City Public Schools
Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"Knowing I am inspiring hope for my students as my teachers did for me is what I believe is my most profound achievement. I get up every morning excited about the potential of making a difference. Every day I walk into my class, I can change a life. I can make a difference."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Science from the University of Oklahoma
M.A. in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma
National Board Certified Teacher

Current Teaching Position

6th Grade Science

Years of Experience

3 years in present position
7 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

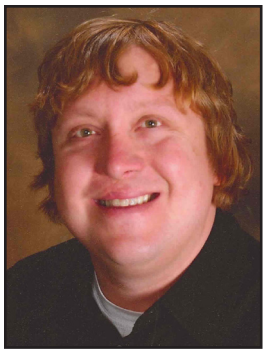
"Teachers must prepare students like a coach prepares a team. Spending time on knowledge and skills is important, but the best preparation is playing the game. We must get to the heart of education by having students solve real problems, improve through engineering, and work together on authentic issues."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Teachers are in the business of changing lives. In the business world, when a company goes under, all assets are sold and any unpaid debt is forgiven. When a teacher defaults on the business of learning, what is lost is an irreplaceable year of development in a young person's life. This cannot be forgiven. In fact, it's unforgivable. Failure is not an option."

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Kyle Cooper

Coweta Public Schools
Central Elementary

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"My greatest accomplishments of all lie in the hearts and minds of my students."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Northeastern State University
M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Northeastern State University

Current Teaching Position

Pre-Kindergarten

Years of Experience

8 years in present position
8 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

"Great teachers discover their student's unique characteristics and celebrate them by creating opportunities for individual success."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Every day of a child's education should be fun and memorable, stimulating and challenging, and include love and respect."

Tiffani Cooper

Owasso Public Schools
Owasso Mid-High School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"I have found students will rise to the level you set for them when met with equal parts passion for learning and compassion for their individual circumstances."

Educational Preparation

Practical Ministry Degree from Victory Bible Institute
B.A. in English Education from Northeastern State University
M.S. in Educational Leadership Studies from Oklahoma State University

Current Teaching Position

9th and 10th Grade Advanced English I and II

Years of Experience

5 years in present position
5 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

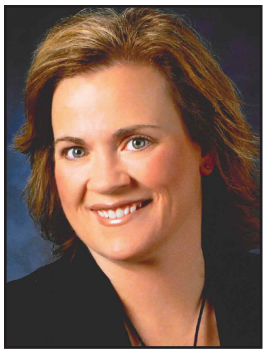
"Building a climate of mutual respect and trust in my classroom is the foundation for everything I accomplish throughout the year. Students crave something real and relevant to their lives, and when they experience it they respond to it."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Learn Local, Think Global. Let's empower and equip Oklahoma's next generation to succeed in our globalized society through this progressive mentality."

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Elaine Hutchison

Fairview Public Schools
Fairview High and Chamberlain Middle Schools

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"A teacher's enthusiasm ignites greatness! If we want our students to be excited about learning, they must feed on our passion. We must work as though our daily contributions are what make or break our students' success."

Educational Preparation
B.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education from Oklahoma State University
National Board Certified Teacher

Current Teaching Position
Algebra 2; Trigonometry; Pre-Calculus; AP Calculus at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics Regional Center; and High School Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

Years of Experience
10 years in present position
19 years total

Philosophy of Teaching
"I believe that teacher quality is the most essential ingredient in determining student achievement. Great teachers have high expectations, are passionate about the content they teach, continuously strive to improve their teaching, and enthusiastically model life-long learning."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message
"Teachers have an incredible, purpose-driven mission that merges the responsibility and power to shape the future in ways impossible to other professions. Changing education's future is up to us!"

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Lisa Lamont

Muskogee Public Schools
Irving Elementary School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"My mission is to establish an educational environment where my students, colleagues, and community come together to develop a passion for learning in all students."

Educational Preparation

B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Northeastern State University
M.Ed. in Reading from Northeastern State University
National Board Certified Teacher

Current Teaching Position

Kindergarten

Years of Experience

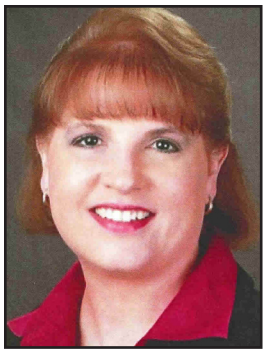
12 years in present position
13 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

"An inspired teacher will continue to build his or her strategy toolbox because not one philosophy will work with every student."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Through professional conversations, inspired teaching, and community partnership a 'Whatever It Takes' motivation allows schools to impact all students."



Lane Matheson

Tulsa Public Schools
Memorial High School and Engineering Academy

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"Critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and creativity are the key skills I teach to unlock students' academic potential and prepare them to engineer their lives."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University
Master of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of Tulsa

Current Teaching Position

Pre-AP Physics; AP Physics B; Digital Electronics; and Engineering Robotics

Years of Experience

15 years in present position
16 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

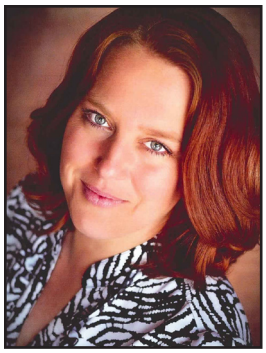
"Teaching in the twenty-first century requires preparing our children to become productive citizens in a rapidly changing world. At some point in the future, each student may need to solve a problem that does not exist yet, use technology still to be invented, or pursue a career that no one has imagined. My educational philosophy is to connect physics, math, and engineering through hands-on projects like robotics, fueling my students' motivation and focusing on their futures, all the while preparing them for the unknown."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"Every interaction between teacher and student is an opportunity to inspire a passion for learning, a willingness to persevere, and a desire to succeed. By inspiring them today, our students will engineer a better tomorrow."

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Angela McKenna

Edmond Public Schools
Sequoyah Middle School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"Every child has a voice. It is my job to help find that voice, celebrate its uniqueness, and encourage its growth."

Educational Preparation
B.A. in Music Education, the University of Central Oklahoma
National Board Certified Teacher

Current Teaching Position
6th–8th Grade Choral Music, Show Choir, and Jazz Choir

Years of Experience
15 years in present position
15 years total

Philosophy of Teaching
"There is no higher calling than that of a teacher.
Teachers have the daunting task of shaping the future.
This is not a task to take lightly, but to passionately embrace."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message
"Oklahoma is a state that has proven its ability to work together and build one another up. As educators, we must encourage one another and work together to seek out the best for our students. We must exhaust all our resources in order to give every student the best we have to offer."

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Brenda Roberts

Byng Public Schools
Homer Elementary School

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"I love teaching! My passion for teaching has driven me to strengthen and improve my teaching techniques so that my students and I work together for a higher quality educational experience."

Educational Preparation

B.S. in Elementary Education from East Central University
M.Ed. as a Reading Specialist

Current Teaching Position

3rd Grade Reading; Math; Language Arts; Spelling; Social Studies; and Science

Years of Experience

5 years in present position
13 years total

Philosophy of Teaching

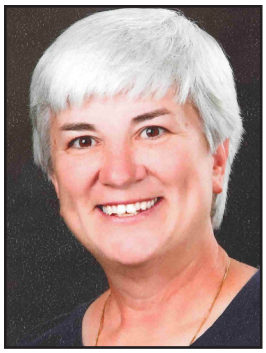
"An effective and outstanding teacher must be constantly working to discover ways to reach her students through making real world connections to what her students are learning."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message

"We must identify our struggling students earlier and provide immediate remediation in order to empower our students with life changing tools needed to become successful adults."

OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Lee Ann Stone

Woodward Public Schools
Woodward Early Childhood Center

■ **2013 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist**

"In a Kindergarten classroom, everything that happens offers a teachable moment, so as the day progresses, I am inundated with opportunities for engaging my students in some kind of discovery. There is nothing more exciting and rewarding for me than to watch them apply their knowledge and make those all-important learning connections!"

Educational Preparation
B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Oklahoma

Current Teaching Position
Kindergarten

Years of Experience
19.5 years in present position
21.5 years total

Philosophy of Teaching
"The teaching profession is the most gratifying job in the world, but it is so much more than just a job. Watching my students as they grow and learn is an incredibly rewarding experience and I cherish the rare opportunity that teaching gives me to nurture their minds and spirits."

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Message
"Public school teachers are nurturing and promoting student learning in Oklahoma classrooms every single day. Each day I work to live up to that awesome responsibility . . . to make a positive difference in my students' lives by sending them on equipped for the next venture in their school journey."