



**SANDY GARRETT  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

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**Tulsa High School Teacher Brian M. Grimm Named 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year,  
State Superintendent Sandy Garrett Announces**

OKLAHOMA CITY - During a perennial, highly anticipated event coordinated by the Oklahoma State Department of Education at the State Fair of Oklahoma, State Superintendent Sandy Garrett today announced Brian M. Grimm of Will Rogers High School in Tulsa is the 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

Grimm teaches English II and III and pre-Advanced Placement English and has been at Will Rogers - where he is also English department chair - for five years. With 13 total years experience in education, he is a graduate of the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

"I'm grateful neither my staff nor I are among the judges for Teacher of the Year, because it is too difficult of a task to choose just one among 12 worthy finalists. Yet I'm confident Mr. Grimm will represent his district and state very well in the national competition," Garrett said. "He is a passionate, dedicated educator who sets high expectations for his students and is delivering results in an urban setting that can often be challenging."

Before joining Will Rogers in 2004, Grimm taught at several Texas school districts, including Dallas, La Porte, Clear Creek and Anahauc public schools. He was chosen Clear Lake High School Teacher of the Year in 1999 and has been the Will Rogers Teacher of the Year since 2007. In his written portfolio for the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year competition he wrote that his greatest contribution was his message.

"Teachers need to know they can do it [because] it is not an easy task to pull kids away from failure," Grimm wrote. "Apathy is easy but change is a challenge. Students must know that they are not a product of their environment, but rather through education and empowerment, their environment becomes a product of their resolve to change. Students must know that their beliefs drive their actions and their actions drive their community."

A state committee comprised of education, business and civic leaders chooses the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year in a formal selection process that includes individual and group interviews, a portfolio and video. Six state regional committees comprised of teachers and parents each selected two of the 12 finalists.

The winner leaves the classroom for one year to serve as Oklahoma's Ambassador of Teaching, conducting presentations to teachers, business and civic groups. In turn, the state Legislature funds a full-time, certified replacement to head the winner's classroom while he/she serves as the state's Ambassador of Teaching.

2010 sponsors of the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year program include Gulf States Toyota, which is giving Grimm a new Toyota Prius for his/her term as Teacher of the Year; the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma, which gives the winner \$5,000 and \$5,000 to the winner's school district; the State Fair; American Fidelity Educational Services, alone and in partnership with the Oklahoma City Thunder; SMART Technologies and the SMARTer Kids Foundation; and many others.



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Among Grimm's many prizes are more than \$10,000 in cash prizes (including \$2,000 from Data Recognition Corporation, \$1,000 from Stillwater National Bank and \$1,000 from American Fidelity); thousands of dollars in tuition waivers from several Oklahoma universities; tickets to several Oklahoma City Thunder games, including courtside seats; a laptop computer, a 32-pad classroom performance system and a MOBI interactive tablet from eInstruction; a \$16,000 package from SMART Technologies that includes a SMART board 680 with unifi 45 projector, software and training; and a classroom makeover.

The other 11 finalists for 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year also are receiving several prizes, including tuition waivers, courtside seats to an Oklahoma City Thunder game, more than \$1,100 in cash prizes, a commemorative plaque, Oklahoma City Zoological and Oklahoma Historical society memberships, software and supplies. The other 11 finalists are:

**Kayleen Browning**, fifth grade social studies, spelling and writing, Skyview Elementary School, Yukon  
**Stacy Culbreath Shepherd**, freshman English and Choctaw language, Durant High School  
**Jennifer Daftari**, 5th grade teacher, Jay Upper Elementary School  
**Dr. Janise McIntyre**, English and "Reading for Pleasure," Elgin High School  
**Mary Pace**, seventh grade English, Whittier Middle School, Norman  
**Russell Randolph**, geometry and pre-Advanced Placement geometry, Mustang Mid High School.  
**Jennifer Robinson**, French, Classen School of Advanced Studies, Oklahoma City  
**Lisa Seay**, sixth grade science, pre-Advanced Placement science and Gifted and Talented, Clyde Boyd Middle School, Sand Springs  
**Rusty Sellars**, physical science and chemistry, Oklahoma Union Public Schools  
**Kristy Van Dorn**, eighth grade science, Deer Creek Middle School  
**Leahna West**, Spanish, Byng Junior High School

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Editor's Note: A photo, mp3 files and video of the 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year winner are available at: <http://www.sde.state.ok.us/Teacher/TOY/finalists.html>