

Lela Odom, Executive Director

Lela Odom has spent her entire professional life working for the Oklahoma Education Association. Whether as a dedicated member or in a variety of positions on the OEA staff, she brings a wealth of experience to the position of executive director.

Odom was born and raised in Oklahoma City. After graduating from Southeast High School, she obtained a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1971 from Central State University (now known as University of Central Oklahoma).

After graduating from CSU, she taught second and third grades at Kelley Elementary in Moore and was named Teacher of the Year in her building in 1976. Odom was a very active OEA member, serving as building rep and in various leadership positions in the Moore ACT, including president.

Odom joined the OEA staff in November 1977 as a UniServ director, and, over the next ten years, worked with various local Associations in Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland, Garvin, Grady and McLain Counties. In 1987, she was promoted to UniServ manager. As a manager, she supervised all areas of OEA services except Legislative and Political Organizing.

In addition to Lela's responsibilities at OEA, she will serve a 2 year term as chair of the Oklahoma Educational Technology Trust (OETT) during 2008-10. OETT is a Trust that was created by a \$30 million settlement between the state of Oklahoma and ATT. The Trust provides grants to schools for technology and professional development to implement technology into classrooms across the state. Lela also serves as 2008-09 chair of the Oklahoma Commission of Education Association's, which is a group of K-16 education representatives who work with the State Department of Education on the latest education issues.

In her spare time, Lela loves to read and spend time with her family. She also serves on the board of her neighborhood association and is a member of Women of the South, which is an organization that promotes and does good deeds for South Oklahoma City.