

Outstanding!

The Awards Issue



Honoring excellence

This issue of the *Education Focus* puts the spotlight on those who are committed to excellence. We salute winners of OEA's annual awards program as well as students who won the Read Across America Poster Contest.

Page 2 **Steven Blades**, behavior technician in a special education classroom at Tulsa Union's Moore Elementary, brings a calming atmosphere to a stressful situation. His dedication to his students has earned Blades OEA's ESP Award.



Page 3 Teacher of the Year **Kristin Shelby** is OEA's nominee for the National Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

An outstanding settlement at the bargaining table helped **Putnam City ACT's negotiations team** win the OEA's Collective Bargaining Award.



Page 4 **Andrea Kerr** has turned her love of teaching math into a popular blog of lesson plans.

Page 5 Check out before and after photos from Student OEA members' **makeover of Hillcrest Elementary** in Oklahoma City.

Page 6 **Young talent** is on display as winners of OEA's Read Across America Poster Contest are announced.



Page 10 Results of OEA's **spring elections** are announced.

On the cover – *Brittany Garber's depiction of "Fancy Nancy" graces the cover of this issue. Brittany, a student at North Rock Creek School in Pottawatomie County, won first place in the 6th-8th grade division of OEA's Read Across America Poster Contest.*

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On Twitter –

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Need help? Call us.

Do you need assistance with a personnel matter? Would you like to invite an OEA Teaching and Learning Specialist to provide professional development in your building? Does your Association need organizing help? Call your regional office and ask for help.

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Northeast and Tulsa Metro Teams

800/331-5143 or 918/665-2282

Northwest Team

800/439-0393 or 580/256-0071

The Education Focus

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Linda S. Hampton, President
Alicia Priest, Vice President
Lela Odom, Executive Director

Communications Center
Doug Folks, Editor
Ashley Knuckles, Social Media
Kandis West, Media Relations
Maureen Peters, Center Assistant

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Reflecting on our successes

By Linda Hampton
OEA President

The month of May signals the end of the school year. It's the perfect time to reflect on your successes as teachers and the successes of your students. It's the time of year when teachers and students alike breathe a collective sigh of relief because "the tests" are over.

You can teach all those last minute lessons you know they need to learn before you send them on, and you can do it without the high stress of testing. It's a liberating time that reminds us why we went into education.

For education support professionals, it's time to think about all the end-of-the-year tasks that have to be completed. It's a time to reflect on all the students whose lives you have touched. You are often a role model for them and someone they look to for advice. The word support means to strengthen, and that's what you do daily – you strengthen public education and make it stronger.

We each have dedicated our professional lives to our students and public education. It is, therefore, hard to see public education attacked by those people who want to demonize and vilify it. The Stand Up for Public Education Campaign has put our profession in a positive light. It's been our opportunity to share our stories and to remind the public that we – teachers and support professionals – are the backbone of public education.

We are not the enemy. We are the experts who know what is going on in education. We live it daily and have committed our professional lives to making it better for our students.

Put the May 5 Stand Up for Public Education Rally on your calendar.

This is your opportunity to stand up and speak out for our profession. It's a chance to stand together with parents, grandparents, students and all supporters of public education. It's our opportunity to be "public education proud." While we know that public education is alive and well, the rally is our chance to show the doubters and nay-sayers that we are doing a great job educating the children of Oklahoma.

The Stand Up Campaign is a result of action by the 2011 Delegate Assembly. The TV ads and billboards have been a huge success. They have appeared on Facebook, hulu.com, YouTube and in newspapers and e-mail.

The quality of the ads was outstanding. In fact, the campaign won eight gold medals, one bronze



President Linda Hampton

medal and a Special Judges Award at the Oklahoma City Ad Club Addy Awards. Not only were our messages awesome, they were done in an award-winning manner. A big thank you to the Staplegun agency for their creativity and work on the campaign.

I look forward to seeing you, your family and friends at the Capitol on May 5. Let's show everyone that we are "Public Education Proud!"

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Leadership Academy

July 25-26
NSU-Broken Arrow

Leadership training for various roles in the local association
The Zen of Change
What's Your Tech Tool?
Turn Your Strengths into Leadership
and more, plus

Bowling at Andy B's Family Entertainment Center

Calm and compassionate

ESP Award winner is a role model to his students

Steven Blades has what many would consider a stressful job. As the behavior technician in a special education classroom, it is his job to help emotionally disturbed students when they are under a great deal of stress and frustration.

Educators who work with Blades say he has a calming effect on the students he works with, and is a natural at what he does.

Blades has been named the Oklahoma Education Association's Education Support Professional Award for his outstanding work with students as well as his dedication to the Union Support Personnel Association (USPA).

In addition to his position as an aide in special education classes at Moore Elementary in the Tulsa Union school district, Blades is a district trainer for the Mandt restraint technique. The Mandt System is a nonphysical method of restraining students with emotional and behavioral issues, emphasizing pain-free techniques.

"Steven is a man of outstanding character and serves as a wonderful role model for the students in our school," said Annette Arrington, a special ed teacher at Moore Elementary. "He is most often working with students that are under a great amount of stress and frustration. Steven always remains calm and handles each situation that arises in a very professional and compassionate manner. He is regarded highly by all of the staff and students and is an integral part of not only our program, but the entire school."



Photo by Mary Bull.

ESP Award winner Steven Blades is shown here with Jamal McShan, one of his students at Moore Elementary in Tulsa's Union Public Schools.

Blades has been named a Union Public Schools support employee of the month and was the district's 2009 support employee of the year. He has earned a bachelor's in business management from the University of Phoenix, and has also met the master teacher requirements of the district's Extended Day Program (EPD) summer camp.

"Steven represents support personnel across the district in a very positive way," said Lorrie Field, Union's EDP coordinator. "By serving in two different support jobs, he is a perfect

example of team work at its best! You couldn't ask for a nicer guy. The kids really love him."

Doug Meadows, USPA president and one of two ESP representatives on the OEA Board of Directors, says Blades brings the same spirit he has for his students to his work with the local association.

"Steven is always willing to accept responsibility for USPA activities at his work site. He represents the quality and high standards of USPA members in this district."

OKC-B repeats as Stan Bryant PAC winner

Oklahoma City Metro Zone B's efforts to help elect friends of education has earned another Stan Bryant Political Action Award.

OKC-B members donated \$7,598 to the OEA Fund for Children and Public Education for an average of \$7.99 per zone member.

Jan Sands was the zone director during this donation period, and Erik Winkle, president of Putnam City ACT, served as the zone's Fund chair.

OKC-B has now won the Stan Bryant Award five consecutive years.

Relationships are the secret to success for NFIE nominee

By Doug Folks

State Teacher of the Year Kristin Shelby has added another honor to her resume.

The fourth grade teacher from Hollis has been named the Oklahoma Education Association's nominee for the National Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. The National Education Association and the NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) give the award annually "...to recognize, reward and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession."

Each state affiliate of the NEA is allowed one nominee and each state nominee receives expenses-paid travel to The NEA Foundation's Annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C. Five finalists are selected for The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence and receive \$10,000 each, plus expenses-paid travel for a guest in addition to themselves.

One of the five finalists is selected to receive The NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence, and receives an additional \$25,000 cash prize, and a personalized, commemorative gift.

Shelby is currently serving as Oklahoma's Ambassador of Education as

State Teacher of the Year. She is a National Board Certified Teacher who has a master's of education administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a bachelor's in elementary education from Oklahoma State University.

Developing relationships with her students and their families is vital to Shelby's approach to education.

"The most successful innovations in my classroom are the development of relationships," she says. "I know my students' interests, parents and circumstances. A strategy I use to ensure all students achieve at a high level is developing two-way communication with my students' families."

Students aren't the only people benefitting from Shelby's

See "Shelby named" on Page 12

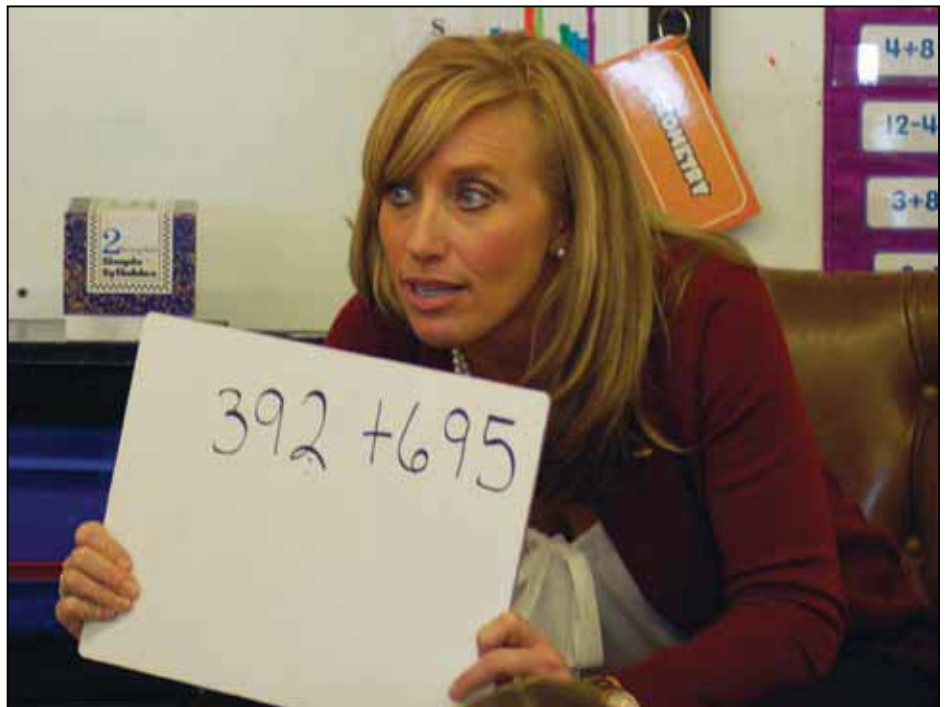


Photo by Doug Folks.

Kristin Shelby, Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, is OEA's nominee for the National Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

Putnam City ACT wins Collective Bargaining Award

Successfully negotiating great salary increases and improved extra duty stipends has earned the Putnam City ACT (PCACT) bargaining team the 2012 OEA Collective Bargaining Award.

OEA's Collective Bargaining Award is presented "...to an individual or group making a significant contribution to the advancement of education through the collective bargaining process."

PCACT's team was able to secure significant pay increases at the table

last summer. Their gains included:

- Teachers with four or more years in Putnam City received three full steps on the salary schedule, which meant raises between \$1,150 and \$2,050.
- Teachers with fewer than three years each received between \$250 at Step 0 and \$700 at Step 1.
- Using the OEA's Extra Duty Comparison, all extra duty stipends were raised to the median rate.
- A bank of \$100 stipends was set

aside for each teacher to attend professional development.

- Language increasing elementary planning time was adopted.

Members of the PCACT bargaining team are Katherine Bishop, Lake Park Elementary; Rene Allen, Hefner Middle School; Stephanie Anderson, PC North High School; Tammy Jensen, PC West High School; and Jody Williams, Western Oaks Elementary. PCACT president Eric Winkle is an ad hoc member of the team.

For the love of teaching math

Mid-Del teacher enters the blogosphere

By Ashley Knuckles

Andrea Kerr has found a way to reflect on her lesson plans and share resources with other teachers, and it's fun for her, too.

Kerr, a sixth grade math teacher at Monroney Middle School in the Midwest City-Del City school system, has developed a blog to share lesson plan ideas. She created the site – fortheloveofteachingmath.com – as a way to reflect on her progress as an educator. Initially she made it parent-friendly, so they could log on and see what their students had done that day. It eventually evolved into a more teacher-oriented blog as she saw a need for more lesson plan resources online.

"I spent a lot of time searching the Internet (before starting the blog), looking for ideas and best practices," she said. "Then I realized I've taught long enough that I have a lot of my own ideas to share. My friends say they love my ideas."

She now considers blogging to be an important part of her curriculum planning. She spends about one hour in the evening reflecting on the plans she used for that day and explaining how others can use it for specific learning objectives. She said that for her, it doesn't feel like work.

"It's become a stress reliever and a hobby for me," she said. "I was surprised to know other people were reading it."

A Facebook page and Twitter profile drive traffic to her site and allows her to discuss her posts with her col-



Photo by Doug Folks.

Andrea Kerr's blog is an important aspect of her planning.

leagues. And a "For the Love of Teaching Math store" is linked to the blog and allows Kerr to earn some extra income by selling some of her lesson plans. The prices range anywhere from \$1 - \$3. There are also a lot of free resources that teachers can download.

Kerr, who has taught for 15 years, has been blogging for one year. She learned about blogging and how to drive traffic to her blog at Teaching Blog Traffic Schools. This site helped her to develop her blog, and connect her with other educator blogs.

With the transition into Common Core State Standards, teachers are being encouraged to document their work and show that they are being thoughtful about their lesson plans. Kerr has found what she calls an easy and reliable way to improve her curriculum and be a resource for other educators.

OPSU named outstanding student chapter

Oklahoma Panhandle State University was named 2012 Student OEA Chapter of the Year during SOEA's Spring Convention in Edmond. On hand for the presentation were (front row, l-r) Selma Belts, Becky Sohm, and advisor Jana Peterson; (middle row, l-r) Advisor Jerry Mihelic, Monica Soukup, Kirsten Benyshek, Aimee Tunnell and Kasinda Conde; (back row, l-r) Karla Ortiz, Torri Janzen and Brittany Sciacca.



Photo by Doug Folks.

SOEA adds a little pizzazz to Hillcrest

Nearly 200 future teachers from universities across the state added color and personality to Hillcrest Elementary during Outreach to Teach in early March.

Hillcrest was one of the last Oklahoma City schools to undergo renovation through the Maps for Kids project, but the Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) was able to add some landscaping around the building, including an outdoor teacher's area in a courtyard and picnic tables near the playground.

The teachers' lounge received a makeover as did a section of the front office. SOEA members worked in individual classrooms, painted, cleaned, organized, worked with students and took on other tasks requested by the teachers. Every student received a book, courtesy of Feed the Children.



A picnic area near the playground, before and after.



Dr. Sarah Layman, assistant professor at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (left), and Mandy Osborn, a senior at USAO, sort books for a fifth grade class. Every student at Hillcrest was given a book, courtesy of Student OEA and Feed the Children.



Shavonn Heidlage, Holly Greenfield and Patti Hess, all from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, pile a fresh mound of mulch around a newly planted shrub.

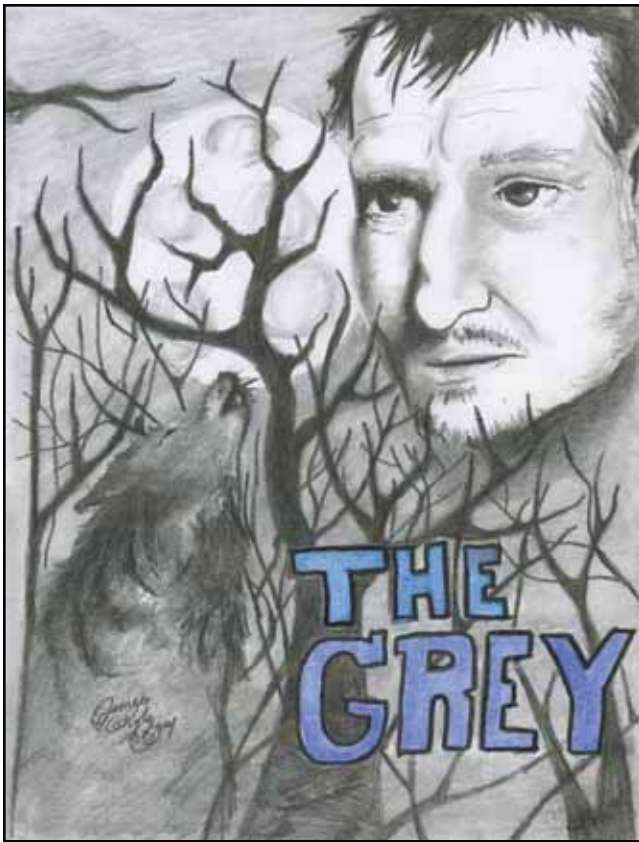


An outdoor lunch room for Hillcrest teachers, before and after.

Photos by Dong Folks.

A flair for the artistic

2012 RAA Poster Contest Winners



9th-12th Grade Division. 1st Place – Kyle Bray, “The Grey” (a short story), Muldrow High School; Georganna Cavillo, teacher.



6th-8th Grade Division. 1st Place – Brittany Garber, “Fancy Nancy,” North Rock Creek School, Elaine Copelin, teacher.

What do Fancy Nancy, a parrot, Liam Neeson and Skippyjon Jones have in common? They were all subjects of the winning posters in the Oklahoma Education Association’s 2012 Read Across America poster contest.

Nearly 600 students from across Oklahoma entered drawings inspired by their favorite books. There were depictions of *Cats in Hats*, *Wimpy Kids* and even a few characters from anime graphic novels. Not surprisingly, there were several drawings from the *Hunger Games* trilogy and Bella, Edward and Jacob from the *Twilight* series.

Winners in each category received a certificate and a \$75 VISA gift card. Second placers won a \$50 gift card and a certificate while honorable mention artists received a certificate.

Winners of the four age group categories appear on this page. You can see all first and second place and honorable mention winners in the Photo Gallery of okea.org.



K-1st Grade Division. 1st Place – Harley Newberry, “Red Eyes or Blue Feathers,” Remington Elementary, Tulsa; Lynne Waters, teacher.



3rd-5th Grade Division. 1st Place – Madison Haller, “Skippyjon Jones,” Mustang Centennial Elementary, Melissa Malloy, teacher.

Inspired members help kill SB 1530

By Kandis West

American cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once said “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

During OEA Lobby Day on March 28, a group of 75 thoughtful and inspired OEA members refused to believe that total deregulation of all public schools was inevitable. They refused to believe that because the percentages of Republicans and Democrats had changed in the legislature, the teacher’s voice would be silenced.

But what really inspired this group of magic makers was not what they didn’t believe in, it was what they did believe in.

They believed in one another. They believed that every face that walked through their classroom door deserved the best quality public education Oklahoma could provide. No shortcuts allowed.

The school employees knew that allowing larger class sizes, cutting programs and paying teachers less was not the solution.

The word “inspire” means the act of drawing in, and these members were definitely inspired. The sheer magnetic force of their passion for education drew legislators in to consider their position on the deregulation bill SB 1530.



Photo by Doug Folks.

Sheryl Gregus (center) and Mary Bartlett (right), members of Support Employees of Edmond, ask Rep. Marian Cooksey to vote against SB 1530, an education deregulation bill that failed in committee, during OEA Lobby Day.

The bill that would allow all public schools to function much like charter schools. Administrators and school board members could eliminate class size restrictions, gifted and talented and early childhood programs as well as reduce pay and benefits for educators.

OEA members attended Lobby Day to voice their concerns. Beverly Rinehart and Lisa Shores from the Byng Education Association provided a great example by having a meaningful conversation with Rep. Todd Thomsen.

“He listened to our concerns while offering to visit with other committee members,” Rinehart said.

Thomsen proved to be one of the strongest advocates for school employees when the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education debated SB 1530.

During the committee meeting, Thomsen asked the committee chair, “Can you name one thing the legislature has done for teachers’ best interest? Will this bill build the perception of confidence?”

No committee member provided a substantive answer.

SB 1530 failed to advance to the House floor with an 8-4 vote. The bill died in committee because of the work of a combination of thousands of personal visits, conversations and e-mails from OEA members across the state.

“We really embodied our core value of Collective Action during Lobby Day,” said OEA President Linda Hampton. “We came together to act on behalf of all the children in public schools. As education professionals, we improve both our professional status and the quality of public education when we unite and advocate collectively. I thank all the members that made this success possible. Together, we are the OEA.”



Whitney Stafford-Najibi, NBCT and foreign language teacher at Brink Junior High in Moore, talks with Sen. Steve Russell about the importance of the National Board Certification program during OEA's NBCT Day at the Capitol.

Photo by Ashley Knuckles.

Your district can't pay the bills?

*By Richard Wilkinson
OEA General Counsel*

It is that time of year again when our office receives calls about school districts that may not be able to finish the school year and pay all of its bills. So, what happens in those circumstances? Like most legal questions, the answer “depends” on the nature of the bill and when the indebtedness was incurred.

Generally speaking, if an obligation – such as teacher or employee contracts – was incurred and approved within the estimated budget of the school district, then the school district is obligated to pay the cost, regardless of whether the district runs out of money for a particular fiscal year. If, on the other hand, an obligation is incurred after a school district runs out of financial resources for a particular year, then the obligation was not incurred within a budget made and approved and the obligation is void and unenforceable.

This article deals with those contractual obligations that are enforceable obligations of a school district, properly made and incurred within a school district budget for a particular fiscal year.

With the recent cutbacks in school funding, many questions arise as to what will happen to an employee's pay if a school district either runs short of money at any time during a fiscal year, or actually runs out of money during a fiscal year. In either scenario, there are several legal remedies available to address the financial shortfall and pay the contractual obligations of the school district.

If a school district experiences cash flow problems during a fiscal year and does not have sufficient funds on hand to cover the cost of payroll or other checks, one remedy for a school district is to issue what are referred to as “non-payable” war-

From Your Counsel

rants. Non-payable warrants have the same value to an employee or vendor as a regular school district check. To issue a non-payable warrant, a school district makes arrangements with its bank to cover the amount of the warrant and the school district agrees to pay the bank at some point in the fiscal year an amount to cover the warrant and any applicable interest.

Non-payable warrants are submitted to a bank for deposit like any other check and are an effective method for dealing with cash flow shortages that may occur during a fiscal year, particularly when state allocations have been reduced.

If a school district actually runs out of money during a fiscal year, yet owes money for services already performed or for the balance of contracts that have been made and approved within the fiscal year budget, then more complex legal action may be necessary to collect the money owed for services performed or for the balance of an employment contract. In those instances, an employee or vendor is required to obtain a judgment against the school district in order to collect monies that a school district has lawfully obligated itself to pay.

Sometimes referred to as “friendly lawsuits,” since there is no dispute that the money is owed, legal action must first be filed on behalf of the employee or vendor. A district court judge must then rule that the school district owes the money for services performed or the balance of the contract and then enter a judgment in favor of the employee or vendor and against the school district.

Oklahoma law requires that any judgment against a school district be paid out of the school district's sinking fund over a three-year period,



Richard Wilkinson

along with interest on the judgment for the three-year period. Judgments against a school district's sinking fund are typically assigned to a financial institution for the face value of the judgment and the financial institution then collects the judgment, plus applicable interest, over the three-year period.

While issuing non-payable warrants is a relatively simple process for dealing with short-term cash flow problems, filing a friendly suit and collecting a judgment against a school district will typically require a lawyer to assist with drafting the paperwork and ensuring that the statutory nuances of collecting a judgment against a political subdivision are covered.

With student enrollment increasing and per pupil expenditures decreasing (yes, we are now last in our region and 49th in the nation for per pupil expenditures), these issues will become even more commonplace than before. Help is available, so if you find yourself or your school district facing these problems, please contact your OEA Regional Advocacy UniServ Specialist for assistance in dealing with these issues.

OEA offers Common Core training to districts

Schools looking for assistance implementing the Common Core State Standards will soon have access to dynamic trainings in six different areas essential to CCSS implementation.

The Oklahoma Education Association will offer the trainings to districts after June 5. OEA has assembled a cadre of 50 outstanding teachers who will conduct sessions on Highly Engaging Classrooms, CCSS Literacy Across the Curriculum, Leveraging Technology for the CCSS, Project-Based Learning for the CCSS, CCSS Writing Across the Curriculum, and Mathematics and Numeracy for CCSS.

“We are very excited about the quality of practicing teachers we have recruited for the Common Core Cadre. Many are National Board Certified, and all of them are great

See “Cadre will present” on Page 12



Sallie Harrison of Meeker and Edmond's Linda Hall are two of OEA's Common Core State Standards cadre members.

Photo by Dong Folks.



Law-related Education

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Lawyers in the Classroom

www.okbar.org/public/lre/programs

Representative Democracy in America

www.representativedemocracy.org

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local government employees with their insurance needs

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Hampton elected OEA president

Linda Hampton and Alicia Priest were elected president and vice president, respectively, in OEA's spring elections. Following is a list winners in all races.

Statewide Offices

OEA President/NEA Delegate,

Linda Hampton, Seminole ACT

OEA Vice President/NEA

Delegate, Alicia Priest, Yukon PEA

NEA Director/NEA Delegate, Patti

Ferguson-Palmer, Tulsa CTA

OEA Board of Directors

Oklahoma City A Zone Director,

Elise Robillard, Moore ACT

Zone Oklahoma City C, Theresa

Shelley, Edmond ACT

Northeast A Zone Director,

Kathleen R. Gatlin, Vinita CTA

Southwest A Zone Director, Pamela

L. Ramey, Professional Educators' Association of Lawton

Northwest A Zone Director,

Rhonda Harlow, Enid EA

Tulsa Metro A Zone Director,

Patricia G. Mott, Tulsa CTA

Tulsa Metro E Zone Director, Katy

Cook, Broken Arrow EA

Administrator At-Large, Raford

Ulrich, Poteau EA

Northeast C Zone Director, Elsie

Morris, Tahlequah EA, and Marybeth

Flusche, Muskogee EA, were in a

runoff for this position. Voting had

not closed by press time for this

issue. Check okea.org for results in

early May.

2012 OEA Delegate

Assembly Positions

Administrator At-Large, Paula

Squires, Boone-Apache EA, and Todd Crabtree, Byng EA

OEA/NEA Retired Delegate-At-

Large, (All of these candidates

won seats at the 2012 DA),

Jane Mershon, Lawton; Theo

L. Crawley, Weleetka; Marilyn

Jackson, Clearview; Sharon

McKeever, Valliant; Danna

Senkowski, Oklahoma City; and

Shirley Anne Neal, Ponca City.

OEA Ethnic Minority Delegate-At-

Large, The OEA Constitution and

Bylaws provide for Ethnic Minority

Delegate representation at the Annual

Delegate Assembly to achieve

proportional representation. For the

2012 Delegate Assembly, the number

of credentialed Ethnic Minority

delegates at the local level exceeds

the required percentage. Therefore,

The R-Word HURTS

We don't even like to say it!

The R-word is "retard" or "retarded".

Most people would never call a person with a disability by that term, but far too many people do think it's funny to use it in conversation to describe someone who has made a mistake, or a situation that is ridiculous.

Eliminate the R-word from your own vocabulary because the R-word hurts.



www.RwordHurts.com



no Ethnic Minority Delegates-At-Large were seated at this year's Delegate Assembly.

2012 Representative Assembly Positions

NEA Category I

Delegates-At-Large

Oklahoma City Metro Region,

Bambi Rogers, Moore ACT

Northeast Region, Mark M. Peters,

Muskogee EA, and Denise Rhodes,

Quapaw CTA

Northwest Region, Mary Hamilton,

Alva CTA

Southwest Region, Ruby Peters,

Professional Educators' Association of Lawton

Tulsa Metro Region, Ginger

Mendenhall, Tulsa CTA

NEA Retired Delegate-At-Large

(successor delegates only), Shirley

Anne Neal, Ponca City, and Theo

L. Crawley, Weleetka.



Photo by Doug Folks

OEA President Linda Hampton (right) and Vice President Alicia Priest.



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VB390412

Cadre will present sessions from 1 to 3 hours

Continued from Page 9

teachers with solid experience in the classroom,” said Alicia Priest, OEA Vice President who led the Literacy group in their initial training development.

CCSS will change how students are taught and tested, and it will emphasize higher-order thinking. Many Oklahoma schools have already be-

gun developing the Common Core for their classroom, while all schools must implement the new standards by the 2014-15 school year.

OEA’s CCSS Cadre will offer sessions of one to three hours in each of the session areas. The district will be required to cover presenter fees and training expenses, as well as all necessary technology,

such as a laptop computer, projector and screen or SmartBoard.

For more detail on costs associated with the trainings or to schedule the cadre, districts should contact one of OEA Teaching and Learning Specialists:

Southwest and Oklahoma City Metro Regions – Bonnie Hammock, bhammock@okea.org, 800/522-8091 or 405/205-5601.

Northwest Region – Mike McIlwee, mmcilwee@okea.org, 800/439-0393 or 580/541-3265.

Tulsa Metro and Northeast Regions – Kim Meigs, kmeigs@okea.org, 800/331-5143 or 918/232-3989.

Southeast Region – call team assistant Kim Holley at 800/522-8091.

Visit okea.org/commoncorecadre for descriptors of the various sessions offered by the cadre and a listing of cadre presenters.

Shelby named NFIE nominee

Continued from Page 3

enthusiasm and expertise. She also serves as an instructional leader by training university pre-service teachers throughout the state, sharing secrets of effective teaching.

“I am passionate that educators must ‘teach it forward.’ We have an obligation to our profession to mentor the teachers of tomorrow and ‘raise up’ great educators,” Shelby said.

Membership in the OEA and NEA has been a source of inspiration for Shelby. From her first year in the classroom, she says she learned that teachers must be a voice for education, the teaching profession and their students.

“My OEA/NEA mentors instilled in me the value of a teacher’s voice – it must be heard,” Shelby said.

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