



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

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**State Superintendent Sandy Garrett surprises Oklahoma City educator in school assembly with \$25,000 national Milken Educator Award!**

OKLAHOMA CITY - Santa Fe South Charter School Principal Chris Brewster was unaware of the real reason that today State Superintendent Sandy Garrett and other state and national education dignitaries were visiting his school. Believing it was because they wanted to learn more about his school's unique charter mission and it serving a predominantly Hispanic student population, he was overcome with shock to learn it was actually to surprise him with news of his receiving the 2010 national Milken Educator Award. The honor comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize!

As an obviously overwhelmed Brewster absorbed the unexpected news and his high school students and faculty cheered with excitement, Garrett said: "This is such an honor to be the one to bring you this news, Chris. It's very rare that someone in my position gets a chance to do something extraordinary for one of Oklahoma's most dedicated educators. Thanks to the Milken Foundation, I get to do it once a year and you are an incredibly deserving individual. Congratulations!"

Brewster has been principal of the charter school, which includes both a high school and a middle school chartered by Oklahoma City and serving about 900 students- for eight years. Prior to that, he was assistant principal of Deer Creek High School (1999-2001) and a vocal music instructor with Capitol Hill High School in Oklahoma City (1992-1999). He received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and his master's from the University of Oklahoma.

Accompanying Garrett in making the announcement to Brewster today was Thomas Boysen, a member of the Milken Family Foundation Board of Trustees. Boysen praised Brewster's commitment and Garrett drew particular attention to his focus on students pursuing post-secondary education.

"It is my understanding that all of your high school students are enrolled in the Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship program by their junior year," Garrett said. "That speaks volumes of what your priorities are and the high expectations set by you and your staff."

Oklahoma has participated in the Milken Educator Awards program since 2000. To date, 23 Oklahoma teachers have received the award for a total of \$575,000 in prize money. The Los Angeles-based organization will give 51 teachers nationwide the distinction this year, with the number of teachers from each participating state receiving the prize being dependent on each state's population. Brewster and his fellow 50 winners will travel to Los Angeles in the spring for an all-expense-paid trip to the Milken Educator Forum, where they will receive their \$25,000 checks and be among a national gathering of award-winning educators to address innovating strategies for advancing school effectiveness.



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Milken award winners are nominated by independent, blue-ribbon committees convened by the various states' departments of education. Milken's national selection committee chooses educators who possess and inspiring presence, have exceptional talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices, exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom; and long-range potential for professional and policy leadership.

In the organization's national press release on the 2010 winners (see attached), Lowell Milken, chairman and co-founder of the Milken Family Foundation, said that highly effective educators are the "human capital that will equip America's youth in this increasingly global economy" and that the mission of the awards program is to send a powerful message of the critical role talented educators play in the country's and its students' future progress.

*Editors: For more information about the Milken Educator Awards - dubbed the "Oscars of teaching" by Teacher Magazine - and the surprise notification events being held across the country, visit [www.mff.org](http://www.mff.org). You can also follow the tour via [www.youtube.com/milken](http://www.youtube.com/milken), on Facebook (search for Milken Educator Award) and Twitter, [www.twitter.com/milken](http://www.twitter.com/milken). Attached is a document with information specific to Oklahoma and the [Milken Family Foundation's national press release](#).*

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