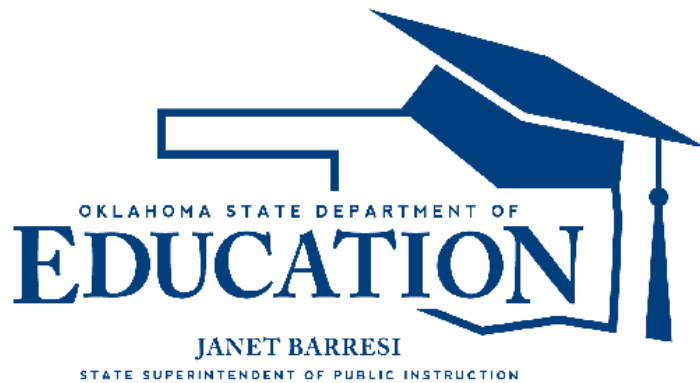


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Hollis Fourth-Grade Teacher Named State Teacher of the Year



OKLAHOMA CITY (Sept. 20, 2011) — Kristin Shelby, a fourth-grade teacher at Sallie Gillentine Elementary School in Hollis Public Schools, was named the 2012 Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi during a ceremony Tuesday at the Oklahoma State Fair.

“It is truly a joy to announce Ms. Shelby as the winner of this year’s Teacher of the Year award,” Barresi said. “All of our finalists represent the best in Oklahoma public education. Ms. Shelby being awarded this honor is a tribute to her hard work in the classroom, her innovative ideas and her dedication to her students.”

Shelby is a National Board Certified Teacher with 16 years of classroom experience. She has been in her current position three years. She earned her Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Oklahoma State University.

“If my students love school, strive for personal excellence and leave my class prepared for future paths, then I have accomplished my mission,” Shelby wrote in the portfolio that was considered by the Teacher of the Year selection committee.

Six state regional committees composed of teachers and parents each selected two of the 12 finalists. A state committee composed of education, business and civic leaders chose the winner. The state-level competition included individual and group interviews, a written portfolio, and personal videos showcasing each finalist’s teaching strategies.

Shelby will represent Oklahoma in the national Teacher of the Year competition in the spring of 2012, presented by the ING Foundation, coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers, and sponsored by Target.

She also received more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes from numerous contributors, including \$5,000 from the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma; the use of a Ford vehicle for a year from the John Vance Auto Group; products, software and professional development from SMART Technologies; a laptop computer from Oklahoma Schools Insurance Group; \$1,000, a \$2,500 tuition credit and a \$500 credit toward a classroom makeover from American Fidelity Assurance Company; numerous scholarships and tuition waivers from many of the state's universities; among many others.

She will serve as Oklahoma's "Ambassador of Teaching," presenting to teachers and civic groups throughout the state for one year.

Each finalist received prizes including a \$1,000 award from Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma; two courtside tickets to an Oklahoma City Thunder game, a \$100 gift card and other gifts from American Fidelity Assurance Company; software and professional development from SMART Technologies; a \$500 tuition waiver from Southeastern Oklahoma State University; a one-year Zoo Friends membership from the Oklahoma Zoological Society; and a family membership from the Oklahoma Historical Society as well as gifts from the Oklahoma State Fair, the Oklahoma Education Association and Professional Oklahoma Educators.

The Teacher of the Year Ceremony is presented by the state Department of Education, its long-time partners the State Fair of Oklahoma and Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma as well as a growing list of contributors.