



MEDIA RELEASE

What: Tulsa Public Schools Seeks Teacher of the Year Nominees

When: Accepting nominations through Friday, Nov. 18, 2016

Contact: Emma Garrett Nelson at 918-202-6956 or garreem@tulsaschools.org

TULSA, Okla. – Each spring, Tulsa Public Schools names a Teacher of the Year to represent Tulsa teachers both locally as an education advocate and spokesperson, and statewide as a candidate for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. On Tuesday, Oct. 18, the district launched the nomination process for the 2017 Teacher of the Year.

“The 2017 Tulsa Teacher of the Year will be someone who works tirelessly to ensure that Tulsa students engage in their education, own their learning, and feel accepted and supported in our schools,” said Superintendent Deborah A. Gist. “We are looking for a dedicated educator who exemplifies our core values of equity, character, excellence, team, and joy in his or her work with everyone in the Tulsa Public Schools family.”

Tulsans are invited to submit Teacher of the Year candidates online at www.tulsaschools.org/TeacheroftheYear. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, November 18. “We encourage students, parents, teachers, and community members to nominate teachers who embody these core values and create exceptional learning experiences every day,” said Gist.

All pre-kindergarten through 12th grade teachers in state-accredited schools are eligible for nomination. Nominees should:

- Be exceptionally skillful and dedicated classroom teachers who believe that every child can learn, every child has talent, and every child has value;
- Provide learning experiences that are demanding and engaging, structured and joyful, as well as challenging and supportive;
- Inspire the value of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities and ensure academic success; and
- Collaborate with colleagues at all levels to reflect, adjust, think ahead and innovate in service to powerful teaching and learning.

Nominees must meet other minimum requirements as established by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Each school site nominee for Teacher of the Year will have the support of district staff and former Teachers of the Year as they complete a portfolio of work to be reviewed during the selection process. In February 2017, the district will announce 13 semi-finalists, and later that month, five finalists will be selected by community and district advisory committees. The 2017 Tulsa Teacher of the Year will be announced in March.

“With so many extraordinary teachers, it takes an intricate process to choose those who will be representative of the outstanding work all teachers do on a daily basis for Tulsa students,” said Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association President Patti Ferguson-Palmer. “The search begins at the building

level where teachers are singled out for their unique and creative teaching styles and culminates when the Tulsa Teacher of the Year is announced. It's a proud moment for teachers across the district."

Nominations for Teacher of the Year must be submitted through the district's website at www.tulsaschools.org/TeacheroftheYear. Nominations must be received by November 18, 2016.

###

DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

3027 SOUTH NEW HAVEN AVENUE | TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74114
918.746.6800 | www.tulsaschools.org