From the OEP

First of all, OEP would like to congratulate Susan Waggener, the 2009 Arkansas Teacher of the Year!

This week OEP is providing you with two policy briefs! The first is titled **Stakes Increase for End of Course Exams in 2009-10**. As of the 2009-10 academic school year, high school students in Arkansas will be required to pass End of Course exams in Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and English, in what will seem to be a type of high school exit exam. Additionally, in response to **President-elect Obama’s Choice for Secretary of Education**, we have written a short policy brief analyzing the choice in Arne Duncan. We hope you enjoy reading these as they have a direct impact on education in Arkansas.

The OWL will be taking next week off for the holidays, but we will be back soon! Look for an e-mail next year, including a release about a resource called **What Works Clearinghouse** that we believe is very beneficial to educators. Until then, happy holidays!

**News from Around the Natural State**

**Legislative Efforts Paying Off in Teacher Equity**
Efforts by the Legislature to ensure poor and minority children are not disproportionately taught by inexperienced or under qualified teachers appear to be working, according to a report released by the Arkansas Department of Education. For a copy of the actual report, click [here](#).

**Arkansas Teacher of the Year 2009**
Susan Waggener, a math and business education teacher at West Memphis High School, was named the 2009 Teacher of the Year.

**News from Around the Nation**

**Obama Picks Duncan for Education Secretary**
President-elect Barack Obama introduced Chicago Public Schools’ chief executive officer Arne Duncan as his nominee to be the next U.S. Secretary of Education.
Site Seeing

Arkansas makes it on The New York Time’s 8th Annual Year in Ideas: The One-Room School Bus.

Mark Your Calendar

With the holidays approaching, events on the calendar are scarce. For more details in the future about events coming up in Arkansas, visit the OEP calendar.

Final Thoughts

We all need to be part of the solution. We all have a stake in the future of our children. – President-elect Obama

Thanks for reading! See you next week!

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