From the OEP

This week we would like to congratulate two special teachers: Vandy Nash of North Little Rock was named the 2010 Arkansas Teacher of the Year and Telisa Hadley of Rose City was named a 2009 Milken Family Foundation National Educator. Nash is a fourth grade teacher and Hadley is a middle school mathematics teacher. You can read more about these awards by viewing the Arkansas Department of Education news releases:

2010 Arkansas Teacher of the Year
2009 Milken Family Foundation National Educator

We are still working on the next section of the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards, and will post the section highlighting the schools who have improved the most between 2008 and 2009 next week. We are sorry for the delay.

We’ve highlighted some news below, but you can always find more stories on our In the News section online.

News from Around the Natural State

Some Arkansas Schools to Get Career Coaches
Forty-three “career coaches” will be placed in Arkansas high schools in January to offer additional career guidance to students, Gov. Mike Beebe announced.

Charter School Proposals
Several charter school applications were rejected at the recent State Board of Education meeting. The following stories relate to the results of the proposals:

Charter School’s Blytheville Add-On Wins OK
The Arkansas Board of Education on Monday unanimously approved plans for expanding the existing KIPP charter school system into Blytheville. During a seven-hour meeting that stretched into the evening, the board rejected charter schools for Fayetteville, Springdale and West Memphis, saying the schools weren’t unique enough.

Education Board May Seek A.G.’s Opinion on Charter School Application
The state Board of Education said today it may seek an attorney general’s opinion on whether approving a new open-enrollment charter school in Little Rock would affect long-running desegregation litigation involving three Pulaski County school districts.

State Board Votes Against Proposed Prism Education Center
The proposed Prism Education Center charter school did not get a green light from the Arkansas State Board of Education Monday. The board voted 5-2 to reject the proposal, which was formally opposed by the Fayetteville School District, during a meeting in Little Rock.

**3 Charter Schools Won’t Fly**

The Arkansas Board of Education on Tuesday denied three applications for new charter schools, bringing to six the total number of charter plans rejected this week.

**News from Around the Nation**

**Bill Would Replace Key Federal Literacy Programs**

Long-awaited legislation to replace three federal reading programs - Early Reading First, Reading First, and Striving Readers - was introduced Nov. 5 by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and would authorize $2.35 billion in funding to improve reading and writing in kindergarten to 12th grade.

**Researchers Probe Pay Incentives for Teachers**

While much of the national debate over performance incentives for teachers has centered on bonuses based on student test scores, a new book suggests that such incentives come in all shapes and sizes, and offers some new research on little-studied aspects of those strategies.

**Survey Finds ‘Gen Y’ Teachers Open to Merit Pay**

A new analysis of national survey data suggests that younger teachers may be slightly more open to merit-pay plans than their older counterparts. The report, released by Public Agenda and Learning Points Associates, focuses on "Generation Y" teachers - those who are 32 or younger.

**Site Seeing**

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that application requirements for the final $11.5 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or 2009 are now available. View the news release and other details [here](#).

**Mark Your Calendar**
November 13: Lecture – Gary Compton, Bentonville Public Schools, Graduate Education Building at the University of Arkansas
February 19: A Conference on Teaching and Learning through Arts and Literacy Integration, Springdale (Contact David Jolliffe, Brown Chair in English Literacy at the University of Arkansas, at djollif@uark.edu for more information.)

More information is available on the OEP Calendar.

**Final Thought**

“Teachers are the most important factor in a child’s education. Not only do we know that through research, but intuitively we know it is that person leading the instructional activities in the classroom who sparks a child’s desire to learn.” – Arkansas Education Commissioner Tom Kimbrell

**Thanks for reading! See you next week!**
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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.