



Matthew Holtzen

Enid Public Schools

FINALIST

2009 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year

"The student who sees multiple sides of an issue is a reward. The student who recognizes how the events of the past shape the present and works towards changing the future is a reward."



Where?

Matthew Holtzen teaches U.S. History and political science at Enid High School.

...For How Long?

Has been in his current position for five years, with 10 years as an educator and previous employment at Woodward Public Schools.

Why Education?

The decision stemmed from a variety of influences: parents who instilled a value of education; positive experiences with teachers who influenced not just by the content of their lessons but by their character; and a strong desire to help people. The decision specifically to be a social studies teacher was from a belief there is no better way to help people than by empowering the next generation of citizens to help themselves.

His Philosophy?

That all students have the potential to learn, although they will not all learn the same things in the same ways. It is the job of teachers to create learning environments that encourage students to be active in their education. Teachers are more effective if they, too, continue to learn.

His Education?

Bachelor's of education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a Master of Education from Oklahoma State University.

For more information on the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year program and media resources on the 2009 finalists, visit www.sde.state.ok.us or call (405) 521-3371!



If Selected?

Will stress the need for more civic knowledge and participation by emphasizing the responsibility teachers have toward their students and communities, that schools have to their communities and the responsibility communities have to their schools.

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