



PRESS RELEASE

Delmar School District Names its 2011 "Teacher of the Year"

Congratulations to Lorrie Sonnier, English/Language Arts Teacher at Delmar Senior High School!

Delmar, DE, Wednesday, May 5th: The time has come to once again announce Delmar's "Teacher of the Year." Each year, Delmar School District awards three recipients; the Delmar Senior High School, Delmar Middle School, and the Delmar School District "Teacher of the Year."



Lorrie Sonnier, 2011
"Teacher of the Year",
High School & District

Nominees must go through a vigorous nomination process with strict guidelines for involvement. The program, which is state wide, "seeks to direct the public's attention to the contributions made by all Delaware teachers." The nominees are evaluated on their dedication to their students along with the success in their teaching methods. Other factors include the admiration and respect that other teachers, administrators, and parents of students have for the nominee as well as professional development and service to the community.

We are proud to announce Delmar School District's 2011 "Teacher of the Year," Lorrie Sonnier. Mrs. Sonnier is also awarded Delmar Senior High School's "Teacher of the Year" Award. She is a first time TOY winner, who started with Delmar Senior High School in 2004 after receiving her Bachelor Arts degree from Salisbury University in English/Secondary Education. Now a 12th Grade English teacher, she is actively involved in a variety of projects that benefit teachers and students including English Department Chair, Instructional Leadership Team Representative, Graduation Advisor, and After Prom Party Volunteer. When asked about her teaching philosophy, Mrs. Sonnier will tell you that her philosophy of teaching is always evolving but her guiding principle is to empower students to take control of their own learning. She sees herself as merely a guide to her students stating, "Although I carefully attempt to select texts and assignments as a way of teaching a set of English standards, the alternate goal is to implement material that facilitates discussion of ideas, cultures and opinions." She is a teacher who encourages learning through open discussion, mutual respect, and student accountability. "It is not until students feel that they have a stake in their own education, their voice matters, and that their own life experiences have provided them with unique and valuable insight that true and meaningful learning occurs."

Lorrie Sonnier, a Delmar High School Alumni (1992), credits her previous high school teachers as her inspiration to become a teacher. When asked why she became a teacher, Lorrie states, "As a former student of Delmar Senior High School, I was given the gift of teachers who made a difference in not only what career path I chose, but who changed and validated who and what kind of person I wanted to become...I teach because I want to make a difference. I can't imagine anything more rewarding than helping someone realize their value, believe in themselves, and even just smile when their world seems to be lost. I want to give back, if only in a small way, the huge portion of wonderful things that were given to me from my teachers."

Mrs. Sonnier will go on to be nominated for the 2011 Delaware State "Teacher of the Year" honor. The state recipient will be announced on Tuesday, October 26, 2010 in Dover, DE.

Delmar School District honored Terry Rodenbaugh with the Delmar Middle School's 2011 "Teacher of the Year" award. Mrs. Rodenbaugh is a 7th Grade English/Language Arts teacher who has become proficient in integrating technology into the classroom. "My goal is to become more of a facilitator and to provide students more opportunities to teach or present new skills learned. Moving into our computer classroom a couple of months ago catapulted technology integration into daily learning." Terry sprinkles each lesson plan with humor to provide the best learning experience for every student. With state of the art technology and fun, her students enter her classroom with a very inquisitive state of mind. Providing the students with this environment enables them to grow personally and academically. Mrs. Rodenbaugh states, "Seventh graders are chameleons; evolving and transforming. Teaching places me in the amazing position of sharing knowledge with students to help them grow academically and personally. Cultivating good citizens, wise decision makers, and capable problem solvers is my ultimate charge."



Terry Rodenbaugh, 2011
"Teacher of the Year,"
Middle School

To set up appointments to interview or photograph Mrs. Sonnier or Mrs. Rodenbaugh, please contact Kristen Vernon at the Delmar School District Office.