



Lindsay Roehl is 2019 PCPS District Teacher of the Year

Lincoln Elementary school teacher, Lindsay Roehl has been selected as the Ponca City Public Schools' 2019 District Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made at the annual Teacher of the Year Banquet held on March 1, 2018 at the high school commons.

With over 240 people in attendance, the banquet was catered by Ponca City Public Schools' Campus Catering. The theme for this year's event was "Team Ponca ... Together We're Better!" The tables and room were decorated with Team Ponca décor in school colors red and blue.

The evening started with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation by Pastor Doug Stephens, Minister of Youth at Northeast Baptist Church. Superintendent Shelley Arrott gave the welcome and thanked everyone who helped with the banquet. She gave a special thanks to the Campus Mart Catering staff for the meal, the high school Student Council students for serving, and all the Central Office personnel responsible for the planning and preparations for the banquet. She introduced Chad Keilman, District Professional Development/Teacher of the Year Committee representative, who explained the Teacher of the Year selection process.

Bret Smith, Executive Director of Operations, introduced the 2018 Teacher of the Year Katy Thomason who talked about her year as District Teacher of the Year. Ms. Trina Liles-Sims of Ponca City Friends of Education spoke and presented a gift basket to Katy.

A media presentation using the banquet theme was shown highlighting each TOY candidate, produced by Chris Adams, Broadcast Engineer and Mary Ladd, District Public Information Coordinator.

Curtis Layton, Executive Director of Human Resources, recognized previous TOY candidates and introduced this year's nominees. As each candidate was introduced, student comments specifically written for their TOY candidate were read. According to attendees, these student comments are always one of the highlights of the banquet.

Each candidate was presented a beautiful bronze award of a student holding a star, along with a certificate from the district. Assisting with the presentations were Shelley Arrott Dr. David Kinkaid (Board President), Barbara Cusick (Executive Director of Curriculum) and Teri Vogeles (Director of Elementary Curriculum).

Shelley Arrott and Curtis Layton made the big announcement of the new 2019 District Teacher of the Year – Drum roll please, and the big announcement was made. The 2019 District Teacher of the Year is Lindsay Roehl! The crowd applauded and gave her a standing ovation as she made her way to the podium to give her acceptance speech.

Shelley Arrott presented Lindsay with flowers, and Curtis Layton presented the award and a gift bag from local businesses and individuals. Patsy Williams presented her with a \$500 check from the Ponca City School Foundation, Inc., and Misty Jordan from the Newkirk Dental Center also presented her with a \$500 check. State Representative Steve Vaughn read and presented her a special Proclamation from the State of Oklahoma written by Senator Eddie Fields and State Representative Steve Vaughn.

Superintendent Shelley Arrott made the closing remarks thanking everyone for coming and emphasizing how thankful she is for our Ponca City teachers. She stated, “I want to thank every educator in this room publicly. Thank you for being willing to work long hours for modest pay and minimal status when you surely could be making more money with less stress. Thank you for trying to figure out every day how to manage the increasing needs of so many children and for loving the ones who are hard to love because they make your days so difficult.”

Arrott continued, “As education funding in Oklahoma continues to diminish, and the challenges you face in the classroom continue to increase, I urge you to speak up, speak out, and be heard. As professionals, we must thoughtfully and deliberately make education reform in Oklahoma a priority. We must create a culture that truly values education. Many of you work a second or third job to support your teaching habit. Oklahoma must do better!”

“What can we do? We can develop a positive culture by having a shared vision of our beliefs and values. We must work diligently to develop a sense of belonging, ensure students and teachers feel a sense of value, support, consistency, and security and ensure they feel safe and welcome. The time has come to be present, active, and engaged. We must become unified as one district, eliminate biases among sites and student sub-groups, and promote the positive things we do. The time has come to become Team Ponca City Public Schools. We must become a magnet for teachers, students, and parents so they are attracted to join this wonderful district. Together we are better!”



“In addition to our academic mission, we also have developed two cultural missions. The first one is to develop a unified, positive working and learning environment to foster teacher retention and student success.”

“This is my 35th year as an educator and when I first started teaching, I worried about getting a job and prepared tirelessly for the interview process because there were so many applicants for each opening. Now, with the teacher shortage, teachers have the opportunity to interview districts. I worry each year about filling all of our open positions.”

“By the end of the 2016-17 school year, we had lost 37 certified employees for a reason other than retirement or spouse transfer, which equates to 11% of the certified staff. We also lost 79 support staff for a reason other than retirement, which equates to 20% of the support employees.”

“Our second cultural mission is to promote and build school spirit and eliminate barriers for ALL students to be involved in any activity. We must get students involved in positive activities to occupy their time so they do not get involved in undesirable behaviors. The research is clear: the more students are involved in extra-curricular activities, whether it be sports, academic or business clubs, leadership groups, or fine arts, the more likely they will find a sense of belonging and not seek negative attention.”

“For this reason, we have made a deliberate effort to promote school spirit, live by the principles of the Wildcat Way in any activity, classroom and throughout life. The Wildcat Way acronym is – Work Ethic, Improve, Leadership, Discipline, Compete, Attitude, and Teamwork. Last year we had 49% of our students, grades 7-12, involved in some type of extra-curricular activity. We need 100% of our students to be involved in some type of positive school activity.”

“In closing, I want to tell you that we have an unbelievable staff at PCPS. You work tirelessly on behalf of students and serve incredibly important roles in the lives of so many. Your impact is profound and reaches places you will never see or realize. I want to thank you for doing the most important work of all – educating the next generation. They are the real hope for our world for creating peace and solving great problems.”

“Thank you for modeling patience, courage, perseverance, wisdom, responsibility, generosity, and a commitment to lifelong learning to the best of your ability each and every day in your classroom. Most of all, thank you for everything you have done, and will continue to do, to create a better future. There is no other profession that so directly shapes the world of tomorrow.”

“The love you demonstrate for our students, our school, and our community has shaped who we are and what we are known for. I am incredibly proud to serve as your superintendent, working alongside each one of you. Thank you for teaching and being a member of Team PCPS. Together we are better!”

