

EMERSON SELECTED AS 2008 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Chandra Holloway Emerson, a teacher at Oldham County Middle School, has been named 2008 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

The announcement was made today at a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort by the Kentucky Department of Education and Ashland Inc. Gov. Ernie Fletcher, Secretary of Education Laura Owens, Deputy Education Commissioner Elaine Farris and Ashland Chairman and CEO Jim O'Brien were on hand to make the presentation.

Tammy Spratt, a teacher at Shepherdsville Elementary School in the Bullitt County school district, was named 2008 Elementary School Teacher of the Year, while Raymond Edward (Ed) Farrar, a biology teacher at South Oldham County High, was named 2008 High School Teacher of the Year.

The three join 17 other teachers from across the state honored with 2008 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Awards. Spratt and Farrar received \$3,000 each and a customized art-glass vase from Ashland Inc., while Emerson received \$10,000 and a commemorative crystal glass bowl. In addition, the Department of Education will provide a sabbatical or suitable alternative to Emerson, who also will represent the state in the 2008 National Teacher of the Year competition. The remaining 17 winners each received \$500 cash awards. All 20 teachers received framed certificates and were honored at a luncheon following the ceremony.

CHANDRA HOLLOWAY EMERSON

A 16-year teaching veteran, Chandra Emerson has taught language arts to 7th-grade students at Oldham County Middle School for seven years. She earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Kentucky and a master's degree from Georgetown College and has achieved National Board Certification. Emerson presented at the 2007 Kentucky High Performing District Alliance and has served as Oldham's 7th-grade team leader for five years. She also was selected as lead teacher for Oldham's Language Arts Department for the 2007-08 school year. Emerson is a recipient of the WHAS ExCEL and Kentucky Council of Teachers of English New Teacher awards and a winner of the Oldham County \$1,000 Pyramid Grant. Her professional affiliations have included the national and Kentucky councils of teachers of English, the Kentucky Middle School Association, the Kentucky Education Association and the Goals 2000 literacy project.

TAMMY SPRATT

Tammy has 17 years of teaching experience, with two in her current position, teaching social studies and language arts to 5th-grade students at Shepherdsville Elementary. Spratt earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Eastern Kentucky University and an Elementary Endorsement from Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee. Spratt has supervised, developed, coordinated, facilitated, implemented and participated in dozens of education-enhancement initiatives, such as the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative's History Alive Program. She also has earned numerous honors, including the 2007 Kentucky Preserve America Elementary History Teacher of the Year. Her professional affiliations include the National Council for History Education, the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies and the Kappa Delta Pi National Education Honorary..

RAYMOND EDWARD FARRAR

"Ed" has 36 years of teaching experience, with two in his current position as biology teacher at South Oldham High School. Farrar earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Louisville and has presented at science conventions and in-service programs throughout his career. Farrar received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching and also has received the Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement, Ashland Oil Golden Apple, Rotary Club of Louisville Teacher Recognition, Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Teacher of the Year and Jefferson County Public School's Golden Apple awards. His past and present professional affiliations include the Kentucky and national science teachers associations, the Jeff Region Bio Alliance, the National Association of Biology Teachers and the Association of Presidential Award-Winning Science Teachers. Farrar is co-founder of the Better Biology Teaching Association.

This is the seventh year Ashland Inc. and the Kentucky Department of Education have sponsored the Kentucky Teacher Awards. Applications for the program were distributed across the state, and the first tier of the selection process was completed in early September, with 20 teachers selected as 2008 Ashland Inc. Teacher Achievement Award winners. Nine top scorers – three each from the elementary, middle and high school levels – were selected, and teams of educators visited their classrooms to view them at work and to conduct personal interviews. From those nine, three were selected as 2008 Kentucky Teachers of the Year. The overall Kentucky Teacher of the Year then was selected, based on a compilation of scores from all phases of the judging.

Ashland Inc. has recognized outstanding Kentucky teachers with its Teacher Achievement Awards since 1988. Nearly \$550,000 has been awarded to nearly 350 teachers in grades K to 12.