



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

NEWS RELEASE



Deborah Burney Hadley Named 2003 DoDEA Teacher of the Year

Arlington, VA—October 30, 2002— DoDEA Director, Dr. Joseph Tafoya has announced the selection of Mrs. Deborah Burney Hadley as the 2003 DoDEA Teacher of the Year. A 23-year teaching veteran, Mrs. Hadley is currently a Media Specialist at the Andre Lucas Elementary School in Fort Campbell, KY. Originally a classroom teacher, Mrs. Hadley taught kindergarten through second grade for 18 years before becoming a Media Specialist.

The purpose of the DoDEA Teacher of the Year program is to recognize and promote excellence in education. Teachers may be nominated by a peer, administrator, parent, or student. Nominees complete application packets, which are then submitted to the appropriate DoDEA District Office where a panel assembled by the District Superintendent selects the District Teacher of the Year. A second panel assembled at DoDEA Headquarters then selects the DoDEA Teacher of the Year from the candidates submitted by each district. The DoDEA Teacher of the Year competes for the title of the National Teacher of the Year.

Nominated teachers complete an application packet consisting of nine components including a professional biography, a philosophy of teaching, an essay on the teaching profession, and a videotape presentation. Each component has a designated point value from 5 to 25, for a total of 130 points. Teacher selection is based upon an application's total point value.

In selecting Mrs. Hadley as the 2003 DoDEA Teacher of the Year, the panel cited her efforts to increase annual library book circulation from 26,000 to 127,154, her development of the Caldecott Club for second graders which sets a series of reading goals that, once met, are honored with reading medals, and her unique reading promotions that included soldiers parachuting in on the first day of school to deliver books and talk about the importance of reading to students.

Mrs. Hadley's other innovative reading programs include *Read Across America Day*, "Lucas Troopers — No Child Left Behind," Family Reading Nights, along with numerous other incentive-based reading programs for students and community members alike.

In addition to her professional duties, Mrs. Hadley is very active throughout her community. She coordinates numerous fundraisers for charity, helps new military families transition into the community, and volunteers regularly at her church.

Mrs. Hadley writes of her responsibilities as a Media Specialist, "I promote literacy through storytelling, creative drama, prepared book talks, puppet shows, poetry contests, and (by) making sure the library is open for business an extra four weeks in the summer." And as to her philosophy on education, she writes, "Much school improvement and student achievement is due to parental involvement. During this time in our society, it is more important than ever to get the message across that we are all in this together. When schools and families work together to support learning, everyone benefits."

In only its sixth school year, the Andre Lucas Elementary School has been listed under Family PC magazine's "Top 100 Wired Schools," and the media center has twice been named a Reading Renaissance Model Library. Andre Lucas Elementary School Principal, Dr. Brenda Hunter, said of Mrs. Hadley and her media center, "The media center is a hub of learning and a magical place for the school. This is attributed to the dedication and creativity of Debbie Hadley. Her caring and warm personality 'invites' children to read and she makes books come alive for them."

For additional information on the DoDEA Teacher of the Year program please visit:

<http://www.odedodea.edu/teachers/toy03/index.htm>

For additional information on the Andre Lucas Elementary School:

<http://www.lucas.fced.org>

For additional information on DoDEA:

<http://www.odedodea.edu>

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