



2009-2010 AETA Teachers of Excellence

In 2010, the newly formed AETA Executive Board Awards Subcommittee reviewed and revised the nomination process for both the AETA High School Teacher of Excellence Award and the AETA Middle School Teacher of Excellence Award. We have placed nomination forms for this year's teacher of excellence awards on the AETA website and are encouraging anyone who reads this newsletter whether they be administrators, faculty, or staff to nominate an English teacher they believe deserves recognition for outstanding work in the field. Because we are hoping to increase awareness of the AETA and all the organization has to offer, all English teachers at the high school or middle school are eligible for nomination: AETA membership is not requisite for the award. Additionally, if you are interested in serving on this board, please contact us.

Recipients of 2010 AETA High School Teacher of Excellence Award and the AETA Middle School Teacher of Excellence Award will be announced at the fall conference. Also to be honored at the fall conference will be the recipients of the 2009 awards: Developing Leader Award, Distinguished Service Award and teacher of excellence awards. Please join us in honoring all these amazing teachers!

—Siiri Granfelt Julian, *Notre Dame Prep*

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR: KATHY DEAKIN



I graduated from NAU in 1998 and have taught 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade English. I began teaching at Highland High School in Gilbert, and taught at Basha High School in Chandler through last May. I received my National Board Certification in May, 2003 and just completed my PhD in English Education in May, 2010. Currently, I reside in Firestone, Co with my husband, Mike, and my two children Andrew and Madelyn. I am an Assistant Professor of English at Metro State College of Denver...yippee! My passion is teaching writing and I am very excited to work with future English teachers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR: RENEE VAHLING RUDE

Renee Rude is a graduate of NAU with a BS in English Education and a Masters in Educational Leadership. She has taught in Gilbert and Mesa School Districts and is currently in her 9th year of teaching. Daughter to a Montessori teacher, Renee was raised in a teaching environment. She enjoys working with a talented staff at Poston Junior High in Mesa where she teaches 9th grade AA and 7th grade English. She enjoys reading young adult literature with her students and can be found hiking Havasupai each year.



DEVELOPING LEADER: BILLY GERCHICK



As honors English educator, journalism advisor, yearbook advisor, JV baseball coach and Ping Pong Club sponsor, Billy continues teaching in his eighth year at Coronado High School, a title I school in Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2006 he entered Arizona State University's M.A. English program with a Rhetoric and Composition concentration. This past May, under the guidance of Dr. Duane Roen, Dr. Elenore Long, and Dr. James Gee, he completed his thesis "Place Exploration: Affinity-Based Media Convergence through a High School Journalism Production." Now, he's looking to further explore the positive impact that secondary journalism staffs can have on entire school learning communities, particularly through Facebook.