

January 27, 2012

Dear School Administrator,

Your district is invited to participate in the 2012 Missouri Teacher of the Year (TOY) Program. Since 1952, the National Teacher of the Year program has provided a platform to raise awareness across our nation of the expertise found within the teaching profession. The Missouri Teacher of the Year program shares these same goals. Each year, an outstanding teacher is chosen to be the spokesperson for all Missouri's teachers. This individual receives many opportunities to share ideas and best practices that originate from experiences in the classroom.

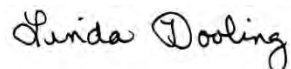
The Office of Educator Quality invites all districts to participate in this recognition process. Through the Teacher of the Year program, each district has an opportunity to promote educational excellence in its community by honoring its best teachers. It is important for the Teacher of the Year program to have representation from all areas of the state: urban, rural, suburban, and small town. Each voice contributes to the image that is projected to the rest of the nation: that Missouri has over 69,000 dedicated, caring teachers who strive to make a positive difference in the lives of their students. It is our hope that your district will choose to recognize a teacher of the year.

**This year's application will be due by June 4, 2012.** District teachers of the year should submit their applications electronically. The original application and letters of recommendation also should be sent by regular mail. The Teacher of the Year clinic will be held March 27, 2012. The purpose of the clinic is to help a district teacher of the year understand both the application process, as well as topics to be addressed in each section of the application.

Details concerning this clinic and a process model that may be adopted or adapted to meet district and building needs have been posted on the Department's website at [www.dese.mo.gov/commissioner/awards/TOY](http://www.dese.mo.gov/commissioner/awards/TOY).

Please let us know, if you have any questions about the Teacher of the Year program, or if we can provide assistance to you as you design and implement your local selection process.

Sincerely,



Linda Dooling, Director  
Teacher of the Year Program