



PHIL RODNEY WILSON Named Alabama's 2010-2011 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Geneva High School's Cathy Coleman Bennett Named Alternate Teacher of the Year

AND THE WINNER IS ...



PHIL RODNEY WILSON, who teaches music to 1st-5th graders at Ogletree Elementary School in the Auburn City School System.

Near the end of the live broadcast event, the 2010 Alabama Stars in Education Awards, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOSEPH B. MORTON announced the coveted title of Alabama Teacher of the Year. With the title, Wilson assumes the role of official spokesperson and representative for teachers in Alabama for the next year.



Cathy Coleman Bennett
Alabama's 2010-2011
Alternate Teacher of the Year

The televised awards ceremony, which is held annually in celebration of these teachers' dedication to education in Alabama public schools, honored all of the district finalists for Teacher of the Year.

CATHY COLEMAN BENNETT, a math teacher at Geneva High School in the Geneva City School System, was named 2010-2011 Alternate State Teacher of the Year at the 2010 Alabama Stars in Education Awards.

Morton congratulated all of the contestants with plaques to commemorate the honor of being shining examples of

professionalism and dedication to Alabama's most valued asset - its children.

Of Wilson, Morton said, "His ability to integrate music *continued on next page ...*



Inside this AEN

continued from front ...



ALABAMA'S 16 TEACHER OF THE YEAR DISTRICT FINALISTS (l to r): Angela J. Williams, Phil Rodney Wilson, Brigett Vernon, Avere Kirkland Patton, Andrea K. Carpenter, Christy L. Parsons, Tammy Morton, Donna McDaniel, Roger Charles Reetz, Jr., Cathy Coleman Bennett, "Rocky" Robin K. White, Madge Gregg, Marvin Ellis, Nancy B. Caffee, Teresa Burden, and Theresa D. Durboraw.

with the rest of the curriculum inspires his students, their parents, and his colleagues.”

“Phil Wilson is the teacher everyone wishes they had: parents, students, principals, and other teachers,” said **CRISTEN HERRING**, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Professional Development for Auburn City Schools.

“Mr. Wilson teaches far more than music. Whatever the lesson – Pi, insects, U.S. Presidents, state names – Mr. Wilson has a song that will connect to the curriculum.”

Herring continued, “Instruction and integration of the Fine Arts is jeopardized in these difficult times, but as a dedicated warrior, Phil Wilson proves that discipline-based arts education is vital to the success of our students and our schools.”

Wilson graduated from Troy University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education and earned a Master’s Degree in Music Education from Auburn University. He believes no accomplishment is greater than knowing that after his students leave his Ogletree Elementary School classroom, they are working to make this world a better place.

Cathy Coleman Bennett, the 2010-2011 Alternate State Teacher of the Year, is a National Board Certified Teacher with 27 years of teaching experience – 25 of them at Geneva High School where she teaches math to 9th-12th graders. Bennett earned Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Secondary Mathematics from Troy University. She is actively involved in Girls Involved in Math and Science (GEMS) and Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators & Students Statewide (ACCESS) Distance Learning.

A love of mathematics and the ability to help her fellow students “get it” spurred Bennett, the first college graduate in her family, to pursue a career in teaching math. She tutors at

risk students, and teaching them to see the meaning and usefulness of math is one of Bennett’s goals. Bennett believes that “positive experiences lead to positive outcomes” and she bases her teaching style on that principle.

Morton said both Wilson and Bennett truly personify the time, attention, and patience that great educators show every day in the classroom. Morton said all of the candidates have such remarkable talent and are to be congratulated on the invaluable contributions they make in the classroom and in the lives of students.

The selection process for Alabama’s Teacher of the Year begins at the school system level. Each school system can nominate an elementary and secondary teacher at the district level. One elementary teacher and one secondary teacher are selected from each of the eight state Board of Education districts. A state selection committee selects four teachers from the 16 district finalists to be interviewed for the

titles Alabama Teacher of the Year and Alternate Teacher of the Year.

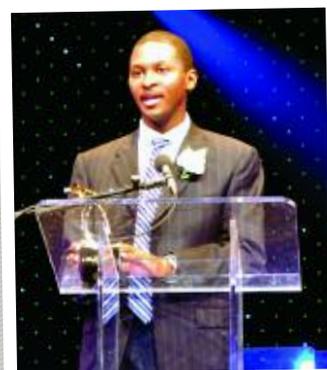
Wilson and Bennett will spend much of the 2010-2011 school year serving as ambassadors for public education and the teaching profession. Wilson automatically becomes Alabama’s nominee for National Teacher of the Year.

For more information about Alabama’s Teacher of the Year program, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Ann Starks, (334) 242-9702 or astarks@alsde.edu.



Alabama Public Television Executive Director Al Pizzato and State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton at the 2010 Alabama Stars in Education Event

Alabama Teacher of the Year Phil Rodney Wilson accepts his award during the 2010 Alabama Stars in Education Event



THE ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION PARTNERS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS

English specializes in the history of the United States, especially the South and African Americans, and also holds an English degree. He has studied abroad and has taught English and history courses at several colleges and universities in Alabama.



These university professors will engage students in collegiate-level, academic exercises and assignments that will produce true scholarship. Participants will be invited and encouraged to critically think and reflect, through the writing of essays and engagement in thought-provoking discussions. The exercises will allow students to reveal how various cultural expressions have helped to shape their understanding not only of themselves, but of other cultures and ethnic groups as well.

For information on the program and the application process, contact **MICHAEL CHAMBERS**, AHF programs coordinator, at (205) 558-3999 or mchambers@ahf.net.

ABOUT THE ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

The Alabama Humanities Foundation is a nonprofit organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (of which AHF is the state affiliate), as well as by corporate and individual donors. AHF is dedicated to the promotion and celebration of the humanities throughout the state of Alabama and, to that end, conducts its own statewide programs and awards grants, on a competitive basis, to nonprofit organizations for humanities projects. For more information on this or other AHF programs, call (205) 558-3980 or [CLICK HERE](#).

THE ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION (AHF) is pleased to present two SUPER Emerging Scholars (SES) 2010 summer institutes for high school students in partnership with the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences and Alabama State University. The programs will be held at The University of Alabama June 6–12 and at Alabama State University June 20–26.

The institutes will bring students together from various backgrounds and work to directly foster opportunities for youth to examine the significance of their own cultural values through in-depth studies of literature, history, and the arts. By equipping participants called Emerging Scholars with necessary critical thinking and writing skills in the humanities, they will be inspired to explore human values and meanings through academic scholarship.

The SES Institute, a residential institute and a program of AHF's SUPER (School and University Partners for Educational Renewal), is week-long and will offer specialized academic enrichment in the humanities. Institutes will assist upper-level high school students in the development of skills necessary for success in secondary and postsecondary education.

Participants will receive intensive, content-rich instruction in national and Alabama-based history, literature, and arts. As a complement to the curriculum, students will participate in trips to various landmark sites in the state.

KAREN GARDINER, PH.D., and **YOLANDA MANORA, PH.D.**, will serve as the program's co-scholars. Gardiner currently serves as the director of the First-Year Writing Program for the Department of English at The University of Alabama. Manora is an associate professor of English at The University of Alabama, where she also teaches in the Department of Gender and Race Studies.

BERTIS ENGLISH, PH.D., associate professor of history at Alabama State University, will lead the program at Alabama State University.

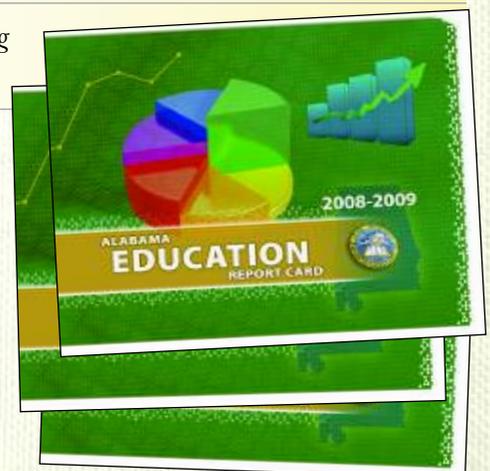
THE 2008-2009 ALABAMA EDUCATION REPORT CARD IS NOW ONLINE!

The report is a detailed and accurate look at student, staffing, and funding information for the 2008-2009 school year in all Alabama public schools.

Alabama's businesses and industries, arts, humanities, and countless other areas are determined by the education that is provided to students today. Information that can inform and benefit all can be found within the 2008-2009 Alabama Education Report Card.

The design and production of this official document reflects the Alabama Department of Education's commitment to free-flowing public information and practical efficiency. This report combines what were previously two separate documents: the federally mandated **Alabama Education Report Card** and the **Annual Report**. All of the information meets the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110*, and the *Code of Alabama (1975), Section 16-3-21*.

To view, go to www.alsde.edu/general/AlabamaEducationReportCard_2008-09.pdf.





RACE TO THE TOP - PHASE 2

The much-needed funds Alabama is competing for (\$60-175 million) will help keep educators and students moving forward.

ON MARCH 29, 2010, U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN announced the two winning states in Phase 1 of the **Race to the Top** (RTTT) grant competition. Unfortunately, Alabama was not one of them, but we can learn from the winners, Delaware and Tennessee, which will receive \$100 million and \$500 million respectively.

Peer reviewers for Phase 1 awarded Delaware and Tennessee high marks for the commitment to reform from key stakeholders, including elected officials, teacher's union leaders, and business leaders. All school districts are committed to implementing **Race to the Top** reforms. Both states have strong laws and policies to support their reform efforts. They have aggressive plans to improve teacher and principal evaluation, use data to inform instructional decisions, and turn around their lowest-performing schools.

Phase 2

About \$3.4 billion is available for Phase 2 of the **Race to the Top** competition. Applications are due June 1. To assist states as they prepare their proposals, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has posted all Phase 1 applications, peer reviewers' comments, and scores online (www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase1-applications/index.html).

The USDE hosted a technical assistance workshop for Phase 2 applicants in April. Alabama's state team members included:

- DR. TOMMY BICE, Deputy State Superintendent of Education
- DR. ERIC MACKEY, School Superintendents of Alabama
- JIM CHESTNUT, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools
- ANITA GIBSON, Alabama Education Association
- SALLY HOWELL, Alabama Association of School Boards

After the trip, Dr. Bice said, "I am very encouraged about our work as a group, and I think we came away with some very valuable lessons learned. It just makes sense to have everyone at the table and pursue collaborative development. It is very important for teachers to be involved in this process."

Representatives from Delaware and Tennessee presented their winning proposals, discussed their plans and laws, and their approaches to building statewide collaboration. The workshop offered a unique opportunity to engage with the winning states and to receive technical assistance from USDE staff.

For Phase 2, the point system (500 total points) remains the same as Phase 1, and states again are being asked to advance reforms around **FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS:**

1. Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy.
2. Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction.
3. Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most.
4. Turning around lowest-achieving schools.

Funding

The USDE will decide on the size of each state's award based on a detailed review of the state's budget request, considering such factors as the state's size, level of local participation, and the proposed activities. Alabama is 1 of 16 states vying for funds in Category 4. For Phase 2 of the Fiscal Year 2010 competition, Alabama's budget must conform to the Category 4 budget range of \$60-175 million.

CATEGORY 4 - \$60-175 MILLION

MINNESOTA	ALABAMA	LOUISIANA
SOUTH CAROLINA	COLORADO	KENTUCKY
OKLAHOMA	PUERTO RICO	CONNECTICUT
UTAH	OREGON	IOWA
ARKANSAS	MISSISSIPPI	NEVADA
	KANSAS	

The USDE developed budget ranges by ranking every state according to its share of the national population of children ages 5 through 17 based on data from U.S. Census Bureau.

“Winning Phase 2 dollars would be a much-needed boost to Alabama’s recently passed education budget,” said STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION JOE MORTON. “Our children deserve nothing less than the best. We intend to submit a strong application that will be right for improving education in



Alabama with or without it being funded. We cannot allow the economy and consecutive years of proration to threaten generations of students.”

Race to the Top grants are awarded to states that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive education reform. **Race to the Top** emphasizes the following reform areas:

- Designing and implementing rigorous standards and high-quality assessments.
- Attracting and keeping great teachers and leaders in America’s classrooms.
- Using data to inform decisions and improve instruction.
- Using innovation and effective approaches to turn around struggling schools.
- Demonstrating and sustaining education reform.

Presidential Plans

President Obama has announced his plans to continue the **Race to the Top** challenge, requesting \$1.35 billion for the program in his FY 2011 budget committed to reforming and strengthening America’s public schools. This expansion encourages visionary change in schools that apply for the challenge.



“We want to challenge everyone – parents, teachers, school administrators – to raise standards, by having the best teachers and principals, by tying student achievement to assessments of teachers, by making sure that there’s a focus on low-performing schools, by making sure our students are prepared for success in a competitive 21st century economy and workplace,” said President Obama. ●

Photos courtesy of Jay Premack.

“When we first announced the Race to the Top program, we said we would set a very high bar for success. We know that real and meaningful change in public education – the kind of effort that results in dramatically better outcomes for all of our students – comes from doing the hard work and setting the highest expectations. With \$3.4 billion still available, we’re providing plenty of opportunity for all other states to develop plans and aggressively pursue reform.”

– U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD

A TOTAL OF 81 Alabama high school seniors have earned a prestigious national award, the High Schools That Work (HSTW) Award of Educational Achievement. This



award is given to high school seniors who complete a challenging and focused program of study, and demonstrate readiness for employment and college studies. HSTW, a Southern

Regional Education Board (SREB) initiative, is the largest high school improvement effort in the United States, with more than 1,300 school sites in 32 states.

Students qualify for this award by completing a college-preparatory course of study in at least two of three different subject areas (English/language arts, mathematics, or science), while also completing a rigorous concentration in a **career and technical education, math/science, or humanities program** of study. Finally, students must also meet all readiness goals, in at least three subject areas, on a HSTW Assessment.

To learn more about this award program, contact Alabama’s HSTW State Coordinator, Dawn Morrison, at (334) 242-9115, or Allison Timberlake, SREB Coordinator of Assessment for School Improvement, at (404) 875-9211. [CLICK HERE](#) for information. ●

THE 2010-2011 ALABAMA EDUCATION DIRECTORY

The upcoming 2010-2011 Alabama Education Directory will contain important information used by educators, law and policy makers, state agencies, media, and the general public. It is the responsibility of the individual school system to upload the most recent and accurate information to the SDE website [CLICK HERE](#) and then click on “ED DIRECTORY” by **AUGUST 9, 2010**.

ALABAMA LIBRARIAN ATTENDS “PICTURING AMERICA IN OUR NATION’S LIBRARIES”



VICKY COOK, Arts Coordinator and Library Media Supervisor for the Baldwin County Board of Education, was the only Alabama educator invited to attend Picturing America in Our Nation’s Libraries, a professional development conference in New York City for public and school librarians who were awarded the [Picturing America](#) collection from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Picturing America brings masterpieces of American art into classrooms and libraries nationwide. THIRTEEN/WNET, New York City’s flagship public television station, premiered Picturing America on Screen, a series of short public television programs featuring the Picturing America collection along with ideas for using them in innovative library

programming. For more [CLICK HERE](#).

State Board Member: Randy McKinney, District 1
Baldwin County Superintendent: Mrs. JaNay Dawson

ALABAMA TEACHER STARS IN “SIEMENS TEACHERS AS RESEARCHERS PROGRAM”

MIRIAM ADAMS, Hanceville Middle School, Cullman County Schools, is one of only 20 teachers nationwide chosen for the Siemens Teachers as Researchers (STARs) program, a prestigious hands-on research program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.



[STARs](#) is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation, in conjunction with Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Discovery Education, and College Board. Selected from middle and high school teachers across the United States, Adams will collaborate with some of the nation’s top scientists to conduct short-term projects focused on the most current and innovative scientific research happening today.

STARs is a two-week professional development course designed to empower teachers to bring the excitement of authentic research into the classroom and inspire students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math education.

State Board Member: David Byers Jr., District 6
Cullman County Superintendent: Hank Allen
Hanceville Middle School Principal: Cynthia Brown Roden

ALABAMA 11TH IN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION is a voluntary and rigorous assessment program designed to develop, recognize, and retain accomplished teachers. In 2009, 233 more Alabama

1,781

Total Number of National Board Certified Teachers in Alabama.

teachers became National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) – a 9 percent increase from 2008 to 2009. Alabama ranks 11th nationwide in the number of new NBCTs and 13th in the total number of NBCTs over time.

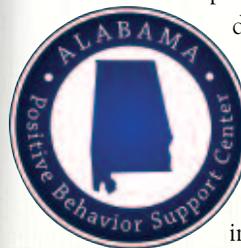
Alabama’s top five school systems in total number of NBCTs are Jefferson County, Hoover City, Birmingham City, Vestavia Hills City, and Baldwin County. Alabama NBCTs include **DR. BETSY ROGERS**, Alabama’s National Teacher of the Year; Alabama State Teachers of the Year; Alabama Milken Educators; and Alabama Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Alabama’s financial commitment to the program provides money to pay the \$2,500 application fee for a limited number of candidates and an annual salary supplement determined by the legislature. There are scholarships available to eligible teachers through the National Board Scholarship Program (www.nbpts.org).

The Alabama application deadline is September 21, 2010. For more information, contact Deputy State Superintendent of Education Dr. Eddie R. Johnson at (334) 242-9960.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS CENTER OPENS

A new central operating center for the Alabama Department of Education’s Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program opened at Auburn University Montgomery (AUM) on April 12th. PBS is an operational framework that is used in schools to teach behavioral expectations, positively reinforce the behavioral expectations that were taught, and collect and use data in educational decision making.



The center will provide training and technical assistance to ensure schools and districts in Alabama receive quality positive behavior implementation.

The outcomes of PBS (when implemented correctly and thoroughly) are: a reduction in office discipline referrals; a decrease in suspensions; and an increase in instruction time, which helps teachers to do what they do best – teach. The effects on schools that implement PBS are tremendous.

“PBS is reform that can make a difference. It gives teachers the tools to lead and choices to offer to children that go beyond traditional measures of discipline,” said DEPUTY STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION DR. TOMMY BICE.

Congratulations ...

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NCDA) POETRY/POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

NCDA's mission is to promote the career development of all people over the life span through activities such as the national poetry/poster contest. Judging criteria is based on originality, creativity, and development of the national theme.



Michael Merritt
Hazel Green High School



Kristin Masterski
PACE Academy

State Board Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, District 8
Madison County Superintendent: Dr. Terry L. Davis
Hazel Green High School Principal: Darrell Long
PACE Academy Principal: Anna Watts

MARBURY TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Chiquita Marbury Technology Innovation Award is named in honor of CHIQUITA MARBURY (1952-2002), who served the Alabama Department of Education for many years as a passionate visionary in technology integration.



Wendy Stephens
Buckhorn High School



Dr. Donna Goode
Owens Cross Roads
Elementary School

State Board Member: Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, District 8
Madison County Superintendent: Dr. Terry L. Davis
Buckhorn High School Principal: Tommy Ledbetter

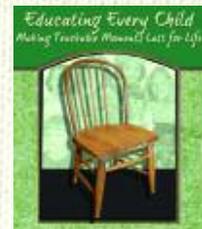
UPCOMING SUMMER CONFERENCES



THE ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (AETC) IS BACK IN BIRMINGHAM JUNE 8-11!

This exciting technology-centered conference will feature guest speakers, hands-on workshops, an exhibit hall, and much more! [CLICK HERE](#) for complete program details.

MEGA CONFERENCE 2010
JULY 19-23 at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, the Renaissance Battle House Hotel, and the Mobile Convention Center in Mobile. [CLICK HERE](#) under "Special Links" for complete details.



AWARDS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Teacher Registry™ (www.nationalteacherregistry.com) is a free service for schools and teachers that enables them to create a wish list of the items they need for their classrooms.

Alabama Sports Festival "Honoring Our Heroes" will award Medal of Distinction to Alabama's active and retired teachers and educational support professionals during a live statewide television broadcast of the Alabama Sports Festival State Games XXVIII Opening Ceremonies, June 18, 2010, 7 p.m., Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center.

To receive Medal of Distinction, qualifying educators must register before June 1, 2010, and be present at Opening Ceremonies on June 18. Register online at www.alagames.com and click on Honoring Our Heroes section, email heroes@alagames.com, or call (334) 221-6358. **DEADLINE: June 1, 2010**

Lowes Toolbox for Education Grants (www.toolboxforeducation.com/hta.html)
For the 2010-2011 grant cycle, check the website in mid-July. To apply, schools must be more than two years old. Any individual non-profit public K-12 school or parent group associated with a non-profit public K-12 school is eligible to apply. Parent groups (PTO, PTA, etc.) that are applying must have an independent tax ID # and official 501c(3) status from the IRS. Visit Sample Projects (www.toolboxforeducation.com/sample.html) for ideas and inspiration.

First Freedom Student Competition (www.firstfreedom.org/education/students.html)

The First Freedom Student Competition is a first-semester national essay contest offering high school students (9th-12th) an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500, and \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and address topics that delve into the history and current relevance of religious liberty. The competition is open to 9th-12th grade students at all levels of academic placement in the United States and U.S. territories, and to American schools and American home-schooled students worldwide.

THE ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS:

- PRESIDENT** – Governor Bob Riley
DISTRICT 1 – Randy McKinney, Vice President, Gulf Shores
DISTRICT 2 – Betty Peters, Dothan
DISTRICT 3 – Stephanie W. Bell, Montgomery
DISTRICT 4 – Ethel H. Hall, Vice President Emerita, Fairfield
DISTRICT 5 – Ella B. Bell, Montgomery
DISTRICT 6 – David F. Byers Jr., Birmingham
DISTRICT 7 – Gary Warren, Haleyville
DISTRICT 8 – Mary Jane Caylor, President Pro Tem, Huntsville
**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY
AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER** – Joseph B. Morton

ALFA TEACHERS OF MONTH



APRIL

SHELLY HERBERT – Fruitdale High School
“Teaching is not just about learning what is in textbooks; it is also about learning how to survive after high school.”

*State Board Member: Mrs. Ella B. Bell, District 5
Madison County Superintendent: Mr. Tim Savage
Principal: Dr. Alfred Taylor*



MAY

JEFF JOHNSON – Hoover High School
“All children can learn and thrive in an environment that is stimulating, comforting, and appropriate to their unique talents and abilities.”

*State Board Member: Dr. Ethel H. Hall, District 4
Hoover City Superintendent: Mr. Andy Craig
Principal: Mr. Don H. Hulin*

During 2010, Alfa Insurance and the Alabama Farmers Federation will honor one outstanding teacher from each of Alabama’s eight state board districts, two principals, and two private school teachers. Application information is available under Alfa Teacher of the Month in the Ag Links section of AlfaFarmers.org.

**ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD BRIEFS**

APRIL

- Public Hearing for Alabama Administrative Procedures Act Rule 290-3-2-.03 and Rule 290-3-2-.04
- Resolution Recognizing Ed Crenshaw as the Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter for April – June 2010
- Resolution to Authorize Review of Teacher Education Programs

MAY

- Resolutions Commending the 2010-2011 Alabama Teacher of the Year, Alternate Alabama Teacher of the Year, and District Teachers of the Year
- Resolution Recognizing Alabama Public Television’s 2010 Young Heroes
- Resolution for Adoption of the Social Studies State Course of Study

For a complete list of agenda items, visit the Alabama Department of Education’s Web site www.alsde.edu under “Board of Ed.”