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25 March, 2019



Oklahoma Teacher of the Year to Speak at SWOSU

Oklahoma's 2018-19 Teacher of the Year—Donna Gradel—will speak at the Teacher Candidate Professional Development Day this Wednesday, March 27, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The public is invited to her presentation at 2 p.m. in the Pioneer Cellular Event Center North Commons lobby. Admission is free.

Gradel's talk is one of many activities planned throughout the day. Discipline Doctor Booth, Mock Job Interviews, Professional Development Concurrent Sessions and a Career & Resources Fair are all planned on Wednesday, according to Dr. Bruce Belanger, coordinator of field experiences and certification for the SWOSU Department of Education.

Gradel is a graduate of West Virginia University. She is currently in her 30th year of teaching, the last 23 of which have been at Broken Arrow Senior High School where she teaches AP Environmental Science and Innovative Research and serves as the Science Department Chair.

Gradel has received numerous other awards, including the 2018 Broken Arrow Chamber Successful Women's Community Impact Award, 2017 Presidential Innovative Award for Environmental Educators, 2015 Henry Ford National Innovative Teacher Award, 2014

Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence Medal of Excellence for Secondary Teaching in the State of Oklahoma, 2013 MIT Inspirational Teacher Award and the Tulsa World "Metro Coach of the Year" for coaching the 1994 State Girls Basketball Champion Tulsa Hale Lady Rangers.

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