

**American Education week November 18-22**



It is with pleasure that I join you in celebrating American Education week November 18-22. This week of recognition gives me the opportunity to thank each of you for your tireless work with our students. As we are demanding more of students with higher standards, we're equally demanding of you as educators. Thank you for supporting our efforts to ensure that students in Kansas are college and career ready. You and your districts have invested money and time in professional development to teach to the more rigorous standards. Thank you. Your job as educators is one of the most difficult and, yet, the most rewarding. This weekend in Wichita we'll bid a fond farewell to the 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year, Dyane Smokorowski, as we announce the 2014 Kansas Teacher of the Year from among eight regional finalists. Mrs. Smoke (as she is fondly known across Kansas) has been a true inspiration for all educators as she has served this past year as the 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year. Her love of learning and contagious enthusiasm for education reminds all of us why we chose the greatest profession of all—teaching!

Thank you!



Dr. Diane DeBacker  
Kansas Commissioner of Education