



For Immediate Release
Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame
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Armendariz joins Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame

Every student can and should learn; that's the teaching philosophy on which Jim Armendariz built his 28-year long career. In June, Armendariz is being inducted into the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame in Dodge City.

"Teaching all students is arguably one of the most difficult jobs, but is also one of the most rewarding and important," he said. "I believe that only happens with high-quality teachers, facilities that reflect that the community values education, and resources that support hard working educational employees."

Armendariz reflects that philosophy by dedicating his career to Title 1 schools with poverty levels as high as 96 percent and special education services provided to 30 percent of the students.

"I prefer to work closely with students, especially those who struggle most, but my passion to support them also finds me in the civic community, in businesses, writing grants, and lobbying in the legislature – fighting fiercely for my students and their right to a high-quality public education," he said.

A teacher at Ogden Elementary said Armendariz understands human behavior, intuition, intellect, poverty, race relations, equality, equity, and trauma. According to Title 1 Math teacher Usha Reddi, none of those things are learned in a book.

"These lessons were his youthful reality. These life experiences have strengthened his character and built his emotional stamina to love every child as though they were his own," she said. "He will fall on the sword for any one of them on any given day."

Armendariz began teaching in Manhattan in 1996 and became an assistant principal in 2002. In 2003, he became the Spanish teacher, as well as Principal at Ogden Elementary School. Armendariz was named USD 383 District Teacher of the Year in 1995 and State Semifinalist for Teacher of the Year in 1995.

He graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Leadership and Educational Administration. He was a graduate of the first Kansas State University Professional Administrative Leadership Academy.

“As a leader, my goal has been to construct a team willing and able to tackle a seemingly insurmountable task with kindness, compassion, equity, humor, and a huge measure of perspective,” he said. “These experiences have made me an ardent educational advocate who uses all available avenues and creates partnerships to advance the interests of students, teachers, and the entire educational community.”

According to retired Superintendent Dr. Dan Yunk, Armendariz’ key to success is his understanding that parents need to be involved in their children’s education and encouraging that partnership.

“His warm smile, caring attitude, strong work ethic and pursuit for excellence make him an excellent role model for both students and adults,” Yunk said.

Armendariz has a vast amount of community service, including serving on the Riley County Community Corrections Governing Board, and writing grants for the Ogden Poverty Alleviation Collaborator. He volunteers for Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Red Cross, and Adult Education, to name a few.

“Jim is one of the brightest people I know,” Senator Tom Hawk said. “His understanding of how the educational system works paired with his deep empathy for the plights of young learners and their

parents, particularly those at the lower socio-economic level, has established him as a major positive influence in the school, across the district, and throughout the community.”

Armendariz is inducted in the Kansas Teachers’ Hall of Fame in Dodge City June 2.