



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE OKINAWA  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Marie Lewis

DSN: 634-1204

Email: [marie.lewis@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:marie.lewis@pac.dodea.edu)

13 June 2012

## DoDDS Okinawa District Announces 2013 Teacher of the Year



OKINAWA, Japan – Department of Defense Dependent Schools Okinawa District Superintendent Martha Brown is pleased to announce the selection of **Mr. Eric Ebert**, Educational Technologist at Bechtel Elementary School, as the **2013 District Teacher of the Year**. The selection was based on the district panel’s recommendation on several factors including:

letters of recommendation, teacher leadership skills, leadership roles assumed in the school, teaching practices based on DoDEA standards and his potential platform as a national spokesperson representing the teaching profession.

“As an ET my job is to support the staff as they integrate technology into their instruction. Teachers know that I’m easily accessible and will drop what I’m doing to come and assist whenever needed,” said Ebert.

Mr. Ebert joined DoDDS in 2000 as a sixth grade teacher at Yokota East Elementary. He also taught fourth and fifth grades at Cummings Elementary in Misawa, and fifth grade at E.C. Killin Elementary. This is his eighth year at Bechtel as the Educational Technologist. He began his teaching career in 1997 at M.K. Rawlings Elementary in Pinellas County, Florida. There Ebert taught fifth grade and later moved into a Technology Specialist position.

He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1990 to 1994 and was stationed on Okinawa as a military policeman. Much of his tour involved working with students as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Officer for Bechtel, E.C. Killin and Zukeran elementary schools.

Mr. Ebert’s goal, and his platform in the competition for DoDEA Teacher of the Year, is preparing teachers to transition to a 21st century classroom. “The teacher’s role will need to shift from the ‘dispenser of knowledge’ who takes an entire class through the same lesson at the same pace, to more of a *21<sup>st</sup> Century learning facilitator* who guides students as they follow their own individualized education plan,” he said. “With the right

software and training, every single student could be actively engaged in learning the curriculum standards at their own pace, following their own interests, and developing ownership of their own learning.”

Okinawa District Superintendent Martha Brown said, “Eric exemplifies excellence in the teaching profession. He lives the ‘whatever it takes’ attitude when it comes to promoting and accelerating student achievement. He is not only an exemplary teacher; he is an exemplary teacher leader.”

Mr. Ebert has a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Florida and a Masters Degree in Educational Technology from Northern Arizona University. He is married and the proud father of two boys.

###