



For Immediate Release

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POE Executive Director Receives National Honor

Professional Oklahoma Educators Executive Director Ginger Tinney was presented with the Carol Applegate Education Award at an April 24 ceremony in Charleston, South Carolina. The Applegate award is presented annually by the National Right to Work Committee's Board of Directors to those who have been most effective in communicating the evils resulting from the coercive policies of the labor union.



Tinney (center) with Reed Larson (left), Founder of National Right to Work, and National Right to Work President Mark Mix (right). Tinney was presented with an engraved Tiffany bowl.

"We have had the pleasure of working with Ginger Tinney over many years, and we've always been impressed with her leadership skills, her passion for teacher excellence, and her passion for the principles of freedom and volunteerism that embody the Right to Work cause," said Stefan Gleason, vice president of National Right to Work.

The award is named in honor of Carol Applegate, a teacher who upheld the principle of free choice in her decision not to pay dues to the NEA teacher union, and as a result was fired from her longtime career position as an English teacher.

Tinney accepted the award as a tribute to the toughness of

Oklahoma teachers.

"The award is for all Oklahoma educators who have taken a stand against the labor union," Tinney said. "I am extremely grateful for this honor."

Tinney's teaching career includes work in both regular and special education, at elementary and secondary grade levels, and in urban and rural school districts. After more than 11 years in the classroom, Tinney took on her full-time role as executive director of Professional Oklahoma Educators. She has served in the position since 1996, and the organization has grown from 40 members to well over four thousand under her leadership.

Gleason praised Tinney for her success in growing Professional Oklahoma Educators, a non-union group for Oklahoma teachers.

"Teacher union officials in Oklahoma had better watch out, because teachers are quitting in droves to join Ginger's group," said Gleason. "Teachers are thirsting for a true professional alternative to the militant union, and POE has been living up to their expectations."

Professional Oklahoma Educators is a nonunion professional educators association that serves more than four thousand Oklahoma teachers, administrators and support professionals. The organization provides liability and legal coverage to members, as well as professional development services and nonpartisan lobbying representation on education issues.

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