



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## PRESS Release

### Local Teacher of the Year, Karen Carter, Receives Accolades

Sweetwater County School District #1 teacher, Karen Carter, received the district Teacher of the Year award for 2015, according to Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill. Carter, a teacher for 29 years, serves as fourth grade teacher at Walnut Elementary.

“Being a teacher is touching the future. I know this because I still feel the impact of the many outstanding teachers, coaches and teacher leaders I have had or observed through the years,” says Carter. She continues, “A significant accomplishment was being part of the educational team at Walnut when we received recognition as a Blue Ribbon School in 2010.”

Speaking about the teaching profession, Carter comments, “When I think about being a teacher, I do think it is a noble profession. I have in my hands the dreams of each child. When I leave home each morning, I want to be a star polisher for each student. Only by building a relationship with each one can I hope to polish and unlock the potential greatness each child possesses. For many children, I have to have the vision of their greatness until they can see it for themselves.”

Accountability is a current buzz word in educational circles. Carter addresses this topic: “That we need accountability is not the issue. How to make the accountability fair for all is. My ideas for an equitable accounting of student learning involve a partnership of students, teachers and administration.”

Carter, who will receive a crystal apple award from the Wyoming Department of Education, says, “To affect change and growth, I have to know what students care about, what they want to be when they grow up, what they are good at, who is at home to read or talk to them, who their friends are, what sports or music do they like. If I am an outstanding teacher, it is because I strive to see the whole child, not just the school child.”