



EDMOND DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

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EDMOND DEMOCRATIC WOMEN ENDORSES JENA NELSON FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Edmond Democratic Women announces endorsement for Jena Nelson a Democratic candidate for State Superintendent of Education. Jena shares the values of the Edmond Democratic Women and we believe she is uniquely qualified to represent all Oklahomans. For more information about Jena or to volunteer to help with her campaign efforts, please visit her website <https://www.nelsonforoklahoma.com>.

MEET JENA

Jena Nelson, running to be Oklahoma's next state superintendent of public instruction, is a 6th and 7th grade English teacher at Classen SAS Middle School. Her classroom excellence was recognized when she won 2020 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. In addition to being an educator, Mrs. Nelson is mom to 17-year-old son, Rafe, and 12-year-old daughter, Linnea. Her husband, Karl, is a professor and director of choral studies at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Mrs. Nelson has been an educator for more than 16 years and has helped her students earn over \$4 million in scholarships. She has been selected to direct at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and was chosen as a presenter at the International Music Festival in Campina Grande Brazil.

In 2020, she was asked by Congresswoman Kendra Horn to attend the State of the Union Address in Washington D.C. She recently spoke at the National Academy for Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Oklahoma Music Educators Association Conference, and was presented the Award for Teaching Excellence from the OEA.

This year Jena is one of 45 national educators to receive the California Casualty and The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. Recently, she was awarded the Lauren Choate Resilience Award from the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy and was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi Gamma Omega Chapter. She is also featured in the upcoming "Teacher Hero Project."

JENA'S ISSUES

Why do you want to be state superintendent?

In the last three years, I've been asked to write dozens of recommendation letters for teachers leaving their jobs. Teacher flight is at crisis levels and only getting worse. We're experiencing an unprecedented loss of professional educators in Oklahoma, not just to other, better paying states, but also to other professions. I have seen the toll that the pandemic has taken on our students. Our kids deserve 21st century schools, where they can get the life skills they need to thrive in our ever-changing 21st century world.

How will you help keep teachers from leaving the classroom for other jobs?

Teachers feel overwhelmed with meetings, unfunded mandates and constant new initiatives foisted upon them. It's time to reduce the clutter and let these professionals focus on what they do best: teaching our kids. I also think it's time to pay these professionals as professionals.

Do you favor the proposed voucher plan to use public funds for private schools?

Absolutely not, no. I believe wholeheartedly that our public dollars should remain in our public schools. I believe that all Oklahomans are entitled to a quality education and taking more money out of our already chronically underfunded public schools will do tremendous harm. Our kids are not for sale and our schools are not for sale.

This information was taken from Jena's website: nelsonforoklahoma.com

www.edmondemocraticwomen.org