Dolly Parton's Chasing Rainbows Award is a partnership between
The National Network of State Teachers of the Year
And The Dollywood Foundation.
DOLLY'S STORY: "CHASING RAINBOWS"

"Chasing Rainbows" definitely sums up Dolly's life story as she went from rags to riches. She was born January 19, 1946 in a one-room cabin on the banks of the Little Pigeon River in the Great Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. She grew up poor—very poor. In fact, her daddy couldn't afford to pay the doctor for delivering her, so he gave him a sack of cornmeal. Being poor was something Dolly was neither proud nor ashamed of. Although her young life was rough, growing up with her parents and eleven brothers and sisters in a close-knit home that while materially lacking, was more than rich in spirit.

Dolly's young life was filled with the inspiration for music that led the fiercely independent, ambitious eighteen-year old, the day after high school graduation, to arrive in Nashville with nothing but her guitar and her dream. Since that day in 1964, she has become one of the most well-known and loved celebrities in the world. Sometimes lost in the glamour of stardom is her enormous talent as a singer, writer, and actress. Undoubtedly, this talent was a gift granted her the day she was born, a talent which she had developed and nurtured through her incredible work ethic.

Dolly endured the ups and downs in her life and gives the credit to her faith which helped her overcome many obstacles. Dolly never strayed far from her roots, and through her humanitarian efforts, has given back a great deal of her "pot of gold" to the community in which she grew up and to boys and girls across the nation.

DOLLY'S CONTRIBUTIONS: "NOT A POT OF GOLD; A HEART OF GOLD"

Dolly says, "The kids call me the 'Book Lady', and I think it's great!" Dolly launched the Imagination Library in 1996 to promote reading among preschool children in Sevier County, a rural community in the Great Smoky Mountains. It generated so much interest that in 2000 she decided to offer the program nationally. Today, Dolly's Imagination Library reaches millions of children in thousands of communities in the US, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia. The books—from life's little lessons to bedtime stories—are mailed once a month, starting at birth, and continues through sixty selections until the child turns five years old. She has a national literacy board that selects the books and the Imagination Library is managed by her Dollywood Foundation's Board of Directors.

DOLLY'S INSPIRATION

The National State Teachers of the Year was excited to present to Dolly Parton the "Chasing Rainbows" Award on April 5, 2002 at the dedication of the Chasing Rainbows Museum in Dollywood. Dolly has not only captured the rainbow, but the pot of gold at the end as well. But it wasn't the pot of gold that captured NSTOY's attention; it was "a heart filled with gold." Dolly loves children and it is her desire that all children across the nation have books of their very own in their own home, become better readers, and expand their imaginations. Although everyone knows Dolly as a talented singer, songwriter, and actress, this award honors her for her lifelong commitment to improve the lives of children.

Every year NNSTOY will honor a special Chasing Rainbows Teacher of the Year who, like Dolly Parton, has overcome great obstacles in his/her life, has captured the rainbow, and is helping children. This distinguished award will be displayed in a permanent place in the Chasing Rainbows Museum with the award winning teacher's name beside Dolly's as a reminder to people to never be afraid to chase their dreams. The recipient of the award will be treated to a weekend trip to Dollywood, have their name added to the award and enjoy the beautiful Smoky Mountains.

It takes two things to make a rainbow: a bright shining light and tiny droplets of water. This bright light, representing Dolly and the teacher, shining through the tiny droplets of water, which are the children, make a beautiful rainbow and lead us all to the pot of gold, ... our future generation!

THE SPIRIT OF DOLLY PARTON'S CHASING RAINBOWS AWARD

Dolly Parton was the first recipient of the "Chasing Rainbows" award on April 5, 2002. Now NNSTOY will recognize annually a Chasing Rainbows Teacher of the Year who epitomizes the "spirit" of this award.

The goals of this award are:

• To bring recognition to the Chasing Rainbows Teachers who overcame obstacles to become an exemplary teacher
• To honor teachers who enhance the teaching profession in the eyes of the public
• To stress empathy and better meet the needs of students.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION

1. The nominee may be nominated by someone else or be self-nominated.
2. The nominee may be actively teaching or retired.
3. NNSTOY member may nominate any teacher
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Application must be completed in its entirety.
2. Binders, folders, clips, or clear plastic covers are not allowed. Staple the items in the top left corner only.
3. Please include a black and white professional photograph (size may vary from 2 x 3 to 8 x 10). This photograph will be used for publicity purposes only and will NOT be a consideration during the actual selection process. (photo is optional)
4. Send six completed packets (the original and 5 copies.)
5. Five letters of support are required. Include one from each of the following individuals, plus one additional letter from an individual of your choice:
   - Student
   - Colleague/team member
   - Parent of a student
   - Principal or other supervisor
6. If retired, use your last year of teaching for reference
7. If nominate, send completed nomination form
8. The self-portrait should be three double-spaced typewritten or computer generated single-sided sheet of white paper.

DEadenLINES

March 1—Deadline for applications
April 1—Notification of Awardee

nOMINATION FORM

This page is to be completed by the person making the nomination.

I officially nominate _____________________________________________ for Dolly Parton's "Chasing Rainbows" Award.

Indicate in 50 words or less why the nominee should be given this award.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Signature of nominator

nOMINATOR INFORMATION
(print or type)

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone E-mail Fax

Relationship of nominator to nominee
NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Name

Home Address

City State ZIP

Phone Home E-mail Fax

Note: If retired, please complete this page with reference to your last active professional position.

Title/Subject ___________________________ Grade Level ___________________________

Years Teaching Experience ___________________________ Name of School ___________________________

School/Work Address ____________________________________________

School/Work Phone ____________________________________________

State and Year named Teacher of the Year (If applies) ___________________________

NOMINEE PERMISSION AND VERIFICATION SHEET

I give permission for this nomination form and the accompanying materials to be shared with the NUSTOY Selection Committee and persons interested in promoting Dolly Parton’s Chasing Rainbows Award. I acknowledge the information in this packet is true and correct.

Signature ____________________________________________

SELF-PORTRAIT

Please describe in full detail the obstacle/obstacles that have happened in your personal or professional life and that because of “Chasing that Rainbow,” you have been able to overcome, have made a difference in the life/lives of a student/students, and have become exemplary in the teaching profession. Your self-portrait should include 5 steps:

1. CLOUDS—Tell about your obstacle/obstacles in life (illness, adverse conditions, tragedies, poverty, poor working conditions, discrimination, handicaps, etc.)

2. CHASING RAINBOW—Describe how you began to overcome your obstacle/obstacles and something positive began to happen.

3. BRIGHT LIGHT—Tell how these experiences made you a better teacher.

4. DROPLETS OF WATER—Explain how your story has made a difference in the life/lives of student/students.

5. POT OF GOLD—Explain how these experiences have been rewarding to you and molded you into an exemplary teacher.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Please include five letters of support. Include one from each of the following individuals listed under application guidelines, plus one additional letter of your choice.