

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### Sooahoo named ‘Teacher of the Year’



**Left:** Moments after being named “Teacher of the Year” by the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce, Rene Soohoo and her husband Richard spread the good news to friends and family who couldn’t make it to the Chamber’s annual awards banquet Feb. 3. **Right:** Pleasant Valley Middle School Principal Ward Holcomb with Soohoo and Superintendent Shonny Bria.

Irene Soohoo, a 38-year teaching veteran who makes reading and history come alive for her Pleasant Valley Middle School students, was named 2011 “Teacher of the Year” at the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce’s annual Recognition Banquet Friday, Feb. 3.

Sooahoo, whose 18 years with Battle Ground Public Schools have been at Amboy and Pleasant Valley, teaches reading in the Learning Assistance Program and is faculty advisor for National History Day.

“The students at Pleasant Valley are fortunate, indeed, to have Rene Soohoo here,” said Principal Ward Holcomb. “She’s a dynamo who has done a tremendous job getting kids to read. As advisor for History Day, she has taken several groups to nationals after winning at the state level.”

Two other Battle Ground district teachers, both at CAM Jr.-Sr. High, were finalists for “Teacher of the Year.” They are Marian Beck, fifth grade language arts and social studies, and Ruth Mills, sixth grade language arts and social studies.

Coach of the Year honors went to Merle Crockett of the Southwest Washington Wrestling Club. The other two finalists are both Battle Ground High School coaches: Andy Schoonover, basketball, and J.J. Klaus, soccer.

Clare Lider, former Battle Ground city clerk, was named Citizen of the Year for 2011.

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