**Gibbs International Magnet School Teacher Retires**

On May 22nd, the staff of Global Ties Arkansas attended the party of Vicki Stroud Gonterman’s retirement as a teacher at Gibbs Magnet School. As a 39-year career/award-winning social studies teacher in the Little Rock School District, Vicki has made it her lifetime mission to increase geographic and cultural awareness of all her students, serving as their "window to world cultures." Throughout those years she has welcomed every opportunity when we have called upon her to allow our international visitors to experience Gibbs. They invariably caught a glimpse of the passion she tirelessly instilled to her students. For that, we are eternally grateful. She fondly remembers and dearly misses our late director emeritus, Dr. Walter Nunn, who was a mentor to her and her husband, Chris. We feel it was most likely Walter who was responsible for giving them the citizen diplomat “bug”, and hope she and Chris will continue their affiliation with Global Ties Arkansas.  Vicki was very gracious to mention us and a multitude of others in her Facebook page after the farewell party: Thanks to current and former Gibbs teachers who celebrated with me. I had so many bouquets of flowers from Florida, Sweden, and Little Rock. Thank you, Global Ties (Toni, Heidi, and Tommy), Marsha Masters of Economics Arkansas, and Chiemi Shimizu from UCA’s Japan Initiative Program for celebrating with me.