



Press Release

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2012

NISD Names Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year, Honors Retirees, Exemplar Educators, Employees of the Year, and Service Award Recipients at the Annual Inspire Celebration

“This occasion is aptly named the Inspire celebration because that is what each of you do – inspire others,” said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. at the district’s second annual Inspire Celebration on April 19.

Northwest ISD brought together retirees, 25-year and 30-year service award recipients, Exemplar Educators from each campus, and its Employees and Teachers of the Year at the district’s annual Inspire Celebration last night. The Inspire recognition program was designed to recognize and celebrate dedicated educators and support staff for the important contributions they make to the students and community of NISD.

“I would challenge anyone to try to find better teachers anywhere in the United States, because that’s how talented and dedicated you are,” Rue said to an audience of about 200 people.

Meredith Cunningham from J.C. Thompson Elementary School was named *Elementary Teacher of the Year* and Amy Jo Wagner from Byron Nelson High School was named *Secondary Teacher of the Year*.

NISD Exemplar Educators were selected from all 23 campuses based on their leadership, motivation and effectiveness in the classroom.

Northwest ISD’s 2012 Exemplar Educators:

Kari Abrams, Clara Love Elementary
Alicia Appel, Medlin Middle School
Amber Bates, John M. Tidwell Middle School
Christi Bradford, Sonny and Allegra Nance Elementary
Rebecca Briggs, J. Lyndal Hughes Elementary
Terry Chaler, Roanoke Elementary
Meredith Cunningham, J.C. Thompson Elementary
Ethan Dee, Samuel Beck Elementary
Camille Edwards, Lakeview Elementary
Jaime Garcia, Sendera Ranch Elementary
Lyndsie Graves, W.R. Hatfield Elementary
Austin Haynes, Northwest High School
Amy Howell, Gene Pike Middle School
Stefanie Jardine, Haslet Elementary
Lindsey Koontz, O.A. Peterson Elementary
Traci Logue, Justin Elementary
Stacy Miles, James M. Steele Accelerated High School
Adron Ming, Carl E. Schluter Elementary

Mary Seltzer, Chisholm Trail Middle School
Chrissie Vann, Seven Hills Elementary
Amy Jo Wagner, Byron Nelson High School
Kelly Walton, Kay Granger Elementary
Allena Waters, Prairie View Elementary

“I am so proud of these 23 Exemplar Educators and the work they do, which sets an example for us and inspires us all,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Edward Chevallier.

Northwest ISD also recognized its three Employees of the Year, who were nominated by their co-workers and selected by a committee.

Northwest ISD’s 2012 Employees of the Year:

Jami Alford, Support Services Employee of the Year, Technology Department
Julie Meek, Administrative Support Employee of the Year, Carl E. Schluter Elementary
Mario Rondon, Instructional Support Employee of the Year, Byron Nelson High School

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees and administration also recognized 20 retirees, who had a combined 592 years of service.

Northwest ISD 2012 Retirees:

Judy Browne, Justin Elementary
Jackie Edmonds, Northwest High School
Jan Grauso, Lakeview Elementary
Brenda Jones, Northwest High School
Vicki Jones, Northwest High School
Cheryl Koons, Special Education Department
Alice Mankoff, W.R. Hatfield Elementary
Howard Migdat, Medlin Middle School
Irene Miller, J.C. Thompson Elementary
Debbie Neely, W.R. Hatfield Elementary
Richard Patterson, John M. Tidwell Middle School
Karen Poer, Byron Nelson High School
Betty Reasnor, Sendera Ranch Elementary
Sheila Roepka, Northwest High School
Gayle Snipes, Lakeview Elementary
Beverly Tierce, Prairie View Elementary
Barbara Van Dam, Chisholm Trail Middle School
Bettie Washington, Kay Granger Elementary
Valerie Wittsche, Clara Love Elementary
Sally Wrona, Kay Granger Elementary

Many of the professionals working in Northwest ISD assisted in paving the way for the district’s success, witnessing the transformation of a small, rural school district to a system serving 17,000 students with approximately 1,800 employees. The district also honored 25-year and 30-year service award recipients.

Northwest ISD 25-Year Service Award Recipients:

Bethany Abbott, Medlin Middle School
Judy Browne, Justin Elementary
Karen Ellsworth, W.R. Hatfield Elementary

Grant Foster, John M. Tidwell Middle School
Pam Foster, J. Lyndal Hughes Elementary
Mary Hammer, J. Lyndal Hughes Elementary
Julie Hammon, Chisholm Trail Middle School
Alice Mankoff, W.R. Hatfield Elementary
Terry Raney, Maintenance Department
Karen Smith, Special Education Department
Rosie Smith, Maintenance Department
Marcia Wood, Seven Hills Elementary

Northwest ISD 30-Year Service Award Recipient:

Kyle Copp, executive director of human resources

“This was a night to celebrate our educators and instructional leaders,” Rue said. “Their dedication and talent is an inspiration to us all.”

Media Note: Photos of each Teacher of the Year, Exemplar Educator, Employee of the Year, service award recipients and retirees are available on the district’s [website](#) or on the [NISD Photo Gallery](#).

###