



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Northwest ISD Educators and Community Are Changing the Conversation about Public Schools

The conversation is changing – one voice at a time. At last night’s school board meeting, the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees recognized a group of roughly 39 community members and 74 staff members for participating in the school district’s first community and staff ambassador training academy.

“Six years ago we created Leadership NISD, a program to promote the vision of the district, develop community leadership and serve as a resource for community input,” said Superintendent of Schools Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. “We heard from many of our Leadership NISD graduates there was a desire to have an advanced component to this program.”

This year, Northwest ISD teamed up with Friends of Texas Public Schools to offer this unique training opportunity for staff and community. The academy provided a look behind the curtain to learn what’s really impacting schools and how the community and staff, as leaders, can advocate for education and make their voice heard.

“I loved the positive energy and enthusiasm in the training,” said Samuel Beck Elementary School third grade teacher Tracey Kiplinger. “I was able to collaborate with other teacher leaders in the district and bring back new initiatives to help publicize all the positive things happening in public schools.”

The Ambassador Training Academy involves four sessions, each two hours in length and focused on sharing the strengths and achievements of our public schools that are rarely shared.

“Northwest ISD and Texas public schools are achieving amazing things for students,” explains Rue. “Across the state and sometimes locally, we hear mostly false and misleading reports of what is going on in public schools. This program was designed to celebrate our many achievements, honor those who work in our schools and more importantly, spread the good news.”

“The first ten minutes of the training completely shocked me,” said Northwest ISD parent Michelle Smith. “Every source I read prior to the first meeting contradicted the positive statements I was now hearing about Texas public schools. I now read and distinguish ‘facts’ about public

education with a new perspective. I have a deeper understanding of what challenges our children and educators face – and what I can do to help.”

The district will begin another cohort this year for staff members and for new teachers to NISD. NISD expects approximately 225 new teachers to the district. If you would like more information about the Ambassadors Training Academy or Leadership NISD, call 817-215-0175.

“This wake-up call and its following insights, combined with meeting a diverse group of people dedicated to advocate for their children, was an experience I will never forget,” Smith shared.

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