



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Roanoke's Monica Lemke wins Region XI Elementary Teacher of the Year honors

The Region XI Education Service Center has named Roanoke Elementary School's Monica Lemke as its Elementary Teacher of the Year, establishing her as one of the top teachers in an area educational consortium that includes 10 counties, 77 school districts, 52 charter schools and 114 private schools.

Mrs. Lemke, a third-grade math and science teacher, won the prestigious award after just three years as a full-time teacher and is among only 40 teachers across the state to be named regional award-winners. She is also a product of Northwest ISD schools herself, having attended Medlin Middle School and Northwest High School.

In her short time as an educator, Mrs. Lemke has made a massive impact on both her students and the district as a whole. She has served as a Roanoke Elementary third-grade team leader, Northwest ISD elementary math curriculum writer and presenter, and given or participated in numerous presentations and trainings with fellow educators. Additionally, Mrs. Lemke partnered with Northwest High School's Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to provide Roanoke Elementary students with a unique project-based learning experience.

Through this partnership, Roanoke Elementary students created model tree houses that moved materials from the ground level into their structures through the use of engineering solutions. Northwest High School students provided the elementary learners with guidance as they used the school's "maker space" collaboration area to test their ideas with materials to solve their problem.

In her Region XI nomination form, Mrs. Lemke wrote that she strives to provide students with "unique learning experiences that require them to think at high levels, as well as giving them opportunities to share their learning outside of our classroom walls."

"Great teachers understand that their impact goes beyond their classrooms and that they must engage their surrounding communities to achieve the development of the whole child," she wrote. "I have engaged staff members, fellow educators, local businesses, parents and students by finding value in the unique roles they play in the progression of my students and by inviting them into the learning that is happening inside my classroom."

Mrs. Lemke's unique teaching methods earned her Roanoke Elementary School's Exemplar Educator award for the 2015-16 academic year as well as the 2015-16 Northwest ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year award, qualifying her for Region XI's award. She was also a nominee for Roanoke's Exemplar Educator award in just her second year of teaching during the 2014-15 academic year.

Dr. Ryder Warren, Northwest ISD superintendent, said Mrs. Lemke embodies the district's core vision of preparing students to be ready for the future.



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“Monica exemplifies all that we hope our Northwest ISD teachers can accomplish,” he said. “She’s a homegrown talent who treats her students with learning experiences they enjoy taking part in – experiences that simultaneously help them learn important math concepts. We’re lucky to have a teacher like her ensuring our children reach their full potential and are ready for a continuously advancing world.”

Mrs. Lemke is a graduate of Baylor University, where she obtained her bachelor of science in elementary education, and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in school counseling.

As a result of her victory, Mrs. Lemke is now eligible for the Texas State Elementary Teacher of the Year award sponsored by the Texas Education Agency and Texas Association of School Administrators.

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