



Texas Rural Education Association Announces Educator Awards

TREA is pleased to announce three outstanding educators and a school board who will be recognized at the annual conference at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center Round Rock on June 29, 2021.

Teacher of the Year: Tracy Denny, Detroit ISD

Tracy Denny is the Ag Teacher at Detroit ISD. Her students are successful in all areas of agriculture education including business leadership, farm and ranch operations, public speaking, and land/animal judging contests. The Detroit ISD horticulture class made over \$8,000 in raising and selling plants under her guidance. Her floral design class earned 36 certificates, and all banquets at DISD are decorated by the floral design team. Ms. Denny applied, and received a grant, for \$15,000 in order to start a community garden. Kathie Thompson, Detroit ISD superintendent states, "Her students are gaining valuable event planning experience and business skills that they will carry with them in life." Tracy Denny will be the keynote speaker at TREA's Awards Luncheon on June 29.

Principal of the Year: Dr. Tara Resla, Granger ISD

Dr. Tara Resla is the elementary principal at Granger ISD. Dr. Resla wrote, developed, and implemented the district's remote instructional plan for the spring of 2020, as well as the 2020-21 school year. She also developed and implemented the district's guidelines for the school district re-start during the COVID-19 pandemic. Granger ISD was one of three school districts selected by TEA for the pilot program for covid testing, and Dr. Resla was instrumental in coordinating those efforts. "Her attention to detail and research of best practices was critical for our successful navigation and operations through the covid crisis", states former school superintendent Randy Willis.

School Board of the Year: Como-Pickton CISD

The Como-Pickton CISD School Board has been instrumental in supporting efforts to increase student achievement in many ways. The school district has improved from an accountability standpoint over the last several years. They have also become much more competitive in academic, UIL, and other extracurricular activities. The District also demonstrates fiscal responsibility, as they have no I & S debt, and one of the lowest tax rates in the state. Superintendent Dr. Greg Bower points out, "As a result of their efforts, our district has become a beacon and a flagship to other schools around us". Board members are: DJ Carr, President; Shiloh Childress, Vice President; Brittney Smith, Secretary; Cole Boseman; Clif Carpenter; JJ Cummings; and Jim Murray. Congratulations Como-Pickton CISD School Board!

Superintendent of the Year: Dr. Kelly Burns, Redwater ISD

Dr. Kelly Burns is an effective leader who has initiated efforts that have produced positive results in virtually every aspect of student achievement and district operations. She contributes to the development of effective school leaders, and she is an adjunct professor at Texas A & M Texarkana. She is fiscally responsible, and has led the district through multiple construction projects. Redwater Junior High School was designated as a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education in 2020. Redwater ISD school board president Brad Rosiek states, "Dr. Burns' strengths of innovation, creativity, and willingness to go beyond what is required, has made her equal to any task assigned. She possesses outstanding leadership abilities and has an amazing capacity for taking challenges head-on."

TREA was founded in 1992 to improve advocacy for rural schools at the State Board of Education, the Texas State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. TREA is dedicated to developing leadership qualities in rural educators and to improving teaching and learning in the rural schools of Texas. For more information: www.txrea.com