



TEXAS CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, Jan. 5, 2009

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TCTA recognizes Lubbock educators with statewide awards

AUSTIN – The Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA) has announced a number of Lubbock ISD educators as statewide award recipients.

Robert Guerrero, principal of Hodges Elementary School, was named the 2008-09 Administrator of the Year in the Elementary School category, given to honor exemplary education leaders; Sandra Hancock, special education teacher at Harwell Elementary School, was named Leader of the Year, a new award given to honor exceptional service to CTA members and outstanding leadership; and Candace Tickle, first grade teacher at Waters Elementary School, was named Innovator of the Year, a new award to recognize unique, outstanding work that positively impacted students, faculty and/or the district.

All were selected based on nominations submitted by the Lubbock CTA, a local affiliate of the statewide TCTA. Founded in 1927, TCTA is an association for Texas teaching professionals and serves 50,000 members across the state.

Robert Guerrero (Administrator of the Year, Elementary School)

Guerrero has served as principal of Hodges Elementary School since July 2006. Previously he served as assistant principal of Irons Junior High School, associate principal of Lubbock High School, and principal of Lubbock-Cooper High School and Slaton Junior High School. He spent the first 12 years of his education career as a junior high school teacher and coach.

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(TCTA news release, continued)

Guerrero received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University and holds certifications in secondary history, secondary health and physical education, mid-management administrator, and superintendent. He was recognized as the 2008-09 Lubbock CTA's Administrator of the Year and the 2007 Region 17 Secondary Principal of the Year.

In nominating Guerrero for Administrator of the Year in the Elementary School category, the Lubbock CTA noted that "through his shining example, he inspires you not only to work harder and be a greater asset to our school and community, but to be a better person. The love he has for his job, the students, faculty and staff and his passion for life are unmatched."

Award judges praised Guerrero for his strong site-based decision making, support for teachers and students, visibility on campus 24/7, and open-door policy, noting his "professional dedication, selflessness, and passionate caring for both children and staff."

Sandra Hancock, Leader of the Year

Hancock has been an educator and member of TCTA for more than 32 years. A special education teacher at Harwell Elementary School since 1972, Hancock has also coordinated her school's science fair for more than 30 years and is serving as the co-director for the South Plains Science and Engineering Fair since 1985. She has been very active in TCTA, serving on the board of directors as District 17 director for four terms, as president of the District 17 Coordinating Council five times, and as a member of several local and state committees. She also has held numerous offices in the Lubbock CTA, including president and faculty representative.

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Hancock received her Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa and certification in special education from Texas Tech University.

In nominating Hancock for Leader of the Year, the Lubbock CTA described her as “an advocate for win-win situations who strives for solutions,” noting her professional manner and excellent rapport with the superintendent and administrative staff. But what impressed one colleague the most was “her skill at inspiring the children and fellow teachers to do their best to learn and keep learning. She is one person who is willing to do whatever it takes to work with people to resolve problems, to promote the teaching profession and to improve the teaching/learning atmosphere.”

Among reasons for naming Hancock Leader of the Year, judges cited her willingness to address issues with the school board in a professional manner, personal touch at the campus level, leadership training at the local level and mentoring of delegates at the state level.

Candace Tickle, Innovator of the Year

Tickle has been a first grade teacher at Waters Elementary School since 2003, following a career in the banking business. Tickle created and has maintained the website at her school for five years, provides in-service and mentoring to teachers in technology, and is a frequent presenter at state and national conferences. She has received many teaching awards and honors, including the 2005 Core Knowledge Teacher of the Year, the 2006 Waters PTA Educator of the Year, the 2006 Lubbock Avalanche Journals Educator of the Month and the 2008 SMART Exemplary Educator award.

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Tickle received a bachelor's degree in business, a teaching certification and a master's degree from Texas Tech University.

In nominating Tickle for the award, the Lubbock CTA praised her many innovative techniques to incorporate technology in the classroom, which include creating interactive technology portfolios for each student to document his/her progress and activities throughout the year, developing lessons using SMARTBoard technology so that students interactively engage in the curriculum, and providing students with digital cameras to take pictures throughout the building that correlate with the alphabet letter they are currently studying. iPod Nanos are also being used in the reading program, and Mrs. Tickle is coordinating with Texas Tech University to enhance this program.

In its nomination letter, the Lubbock CTA wrote that she "utilizes every form of technology in her classroom to keep her students engaged and interacting with each lesson. Teaching first grade is a daunting task for even the most experienced teacher, yet Mrs. Tickle has effectively mastered that skill while utilizing techniques that excite and engage her students."

One TCTA judge wrote that the nominee "uses the most advanced technology devices in her classroom to make learning fun. She is a teacher, mentor and author of her many curriculum endeavors. She is definitely getting the students' attention through the use of technology."

TCTA will honor award winners in February in Austin, during the association's annual convention. Educators from across the state will participate in professional development seminars, elect TCTA leaders for statewide and district positions, review and vote on the association's 2009 legislative program and adopt policy positions on many current education issues.