



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD'S MARSHA BURRIS SELECTED FOR
2010 RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS
HARVARD LEADERSHIP SUMMER COHORT**



Texarkana, TX – Marsha Burris, Principal of Texarkana Independent School District's OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School, has been selected by Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT) as one of the 100 public school leaders in Texas to attend the Summer Institutes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Burris participated in the launch of the RYHT Leadership Program at the Summer Institutes in 2008 and was the only alumni from that year to be selected for the 2010 program. She will attend the Redesigning High Schools for Improved Instruction Leadership Program from June 26 – July 3 in Boston, MA.

The program provides the theories, knowledge, practices and tools necessary to redesign high schools so that they can become powerful learning environments for students and adults. Participants will explore redesign issues in relation to both small and comprehensive high schools. Examples will be drawn from a variety of schools that have successfully completed major redesign, as well as those that are actively engaged in the process providing concrete strategies for others redesign plans.

The Principals' Center at the Harvard Graduate School of Education provides aspiring and experience school leaders from across the country and around the world with exemplary professional development to meet personal and professional challenges. The Principals' Center is dedicated to the support, development and improvement of school principals and other school leaders who influence the character and quality of a school.

This year's selection process was highly competitive with over 250 applicants. For the 100 principals who were selected, Raise Your Hand Texas will cover the full cost of tuition, travel, room and board and a daily stipend.

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Raise Your Hand Texas is a non-profit, bi-partisan advocacy organization made up of business and community leaders, taxpayers and concerned citizens, all with a single focus: supporting the more than 4.5 million students in the Texas public education system so that every child can receive a quality public education. RYHT supports high standards and expectations, along with securing the financial resources and tools to increase student performance. In order to raise the bar, RYHT believes: that student achievement and the outstanding results achieved by Texas teachers and administrators should be celebrated; public education will be strengthened by everyone working together to create a safe and effective learning environment for all Texas students; and, that RYHT must help the public understand and acknowledge the challenges and successes of Texas public schools.

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