



PRESS RELEASE

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**TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER TO BE HONORED
BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS A HERO FOR CHILDREN**

Texarkana, TX – The State Board of Education will honor one of Texarkana Independent School District's own this Friday as 15 volunteers from school districts across Texas are presented the Heroes for Children award.



Martha Garrett, Texas High School volunteer, was chosen as the Hero for Children award winner representing Region VIII. For the past three years, she has served as Texas High School Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) College Resource Coordinator helping students coordinate meetings with their Academic Advisors to determine required testing, courses needed and financial aid resources. Garrett also assists students in helping to define their academic goals, explore college choices, coordinates career testing and organizes teacher appreciation events for the campus.

“My passion lies in the encouragement and equipping of our students with every possible tool, scholarship and opportunity that may be available in helping them succeed not only in school but in life,” said Garrett. “During my volunteer work at the THS College Resource Department, I have had the opportunity to interview our students to determine what future goals they may have and to help them realize their potential and what their futures could become. To see the spark in a child's eye, when they realize that life has so much more to offer them and that we are willing to help them reach new goals, is the best gift anyone can receive. Whether it is matching up a child with a university or a technical school, just knowing that their lives will be better for them and for their children in the future is what keeps me volunteering.”

“Martha is an outstanding volunteer for our campus. She helps with anything and everything that is needed,” commented Paul Norton, Texas High School Principal. “Because of her warm and friendly demeanor, students gravitate to her to seek her support and guidance. Martha is willing to help any

student with any situation that they are involved in. If she is not able or can't find the solution for the student, she will go to the ends of the earth to find the right person who can."

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"The TISD VIPS program is so proud of Martha and all the great work she is doing with our students on a daily basis," stated Jo Ann Rice, Assistant Superintendent for Student & Community Development. "She has a genuine love of children and a desire to help them receive the best possible educational experience. Her volunteer efforts are making a difference in the quality of our student's lives."

The Heroes for Children honorees are selected by the State Board members and recognized for volunteering their time, talents and skills to help improve the public schools in their communities.

Several of these individuals have shared their personal and material resources with public school children for decades. Their service is self-motivated, often by the desire to inspire at-risk students to stay in school or to improve the morale of teachers and staff. Not only do these unsung heroes raise students' self-esteem, they contribute to the academic success of the children whom they mentor.

Each hero will receive a certificate of honor, a copy of the resolution scheduled for Board approval and photographs commemorating the ceremony. Each hero will also have his or her name engraved on a plaque that is permanently displayed at TEA headquarters.

The State Board of Education meeting will be broadcast live online. A link to the webcast will be posted on the Texas Education homepage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us> on the day of meeting and at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=3876>.

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