



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **STATE ASSOCIATION HONORS THREE TISD PARTNERS DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Texarkana, TX** – The Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE) honored one Texarkana Independent School volunteer and two TISD partnership programs during their annual state partnership conference held in Austin on January 31.

The Texas Association of Partners in Education provides leadership and expertise for schools, families, businesses and communities to build partnerships that enhance student success. The central purpose of the association is to strengthen student success through volunteer, community and business/school partnerships which will enhance the success of young people in schools and prepare them to be responsible citizens who significantly contribute to the economic, civic and social environment in which they live and work.

The 2012 TAPE Educational Partnership Awards highlighted and showcased twenty-seven exemplary partners and programs from across the State of Texas.

Area winners were:

**RAY WILLIAMS – Gold Award Winner of the Texas Individual Partnership for Wisdom.** This award is given to a senior adult, over the age of 65 who assists schools, teachers and/or students in a manner that positively impacts student success.



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Mr. Williams is a volunteer at Westlawn Elementary School. He is committed to the staff and students of the school and works diligently to meet the needs of all. Williams has lunch each Friday with a special needs student and spends quality time with them. Additionally, he volunteers every week to assist with building appearance, maintenance and groundskeeping. From hanging posters that promote campus activities, to decorating for student events, Williams is a constant, comforting and enthusiastic leader on the campus and gives of his time and energy without limits.

**TEXARKANA REGIONAL ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL (TRAHC) – Gold Award Winner of the Community Partnership for the Arts.** Recognizes a community partner whose partnership with a campus or district has had a demonstrated positive impact on student art participation and awareness.



Spring Lake Park Elementary School and TRAHC partnership was established for the purpose of preparing teachers to plan, implement and evaluate professional development in the Arts. Through the training of teachers by Kennedy Center-trained presenters who model arts integration lessons for the classrooms, students are able to grasp more difficult concepts when they integrate acting or creative activities into their studies. With this partnership, a higher level of educational engagement is seen among students and the campus has become a year-round exhibit of student and teacher art.

**THE ROSS PEROT STEM ACADEMY AT TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL – Crystal Award Winner of the Community Partnership for STEM.** Honors a community partner whose partnership with a campus or district has had a demonstrated positive impact on student development in science, engineering, technology or math.

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The Ross Perot STEM Academy at THS focuses on increasing student achievement by engaging and exposing students to innovative instruction while simultaneously acting as demonstration sites to inform math and science teaching and learning statewide. It provides a rigorous, well-rounded education with outstanding science, math, English language arts, and social studies instruction and with technology integrated across the curriculum.

Community and educational partners work with the Academy to provide guidance and support. A STEM Advisory Board is in place to help provide internships, mentorships and job shadowing opportunities for students and to further develop the culture, “College Ready, Career Ready, Life Ready.”

Academy partners include: AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Domtar, Goins Plastics, Ingenuity Center of UT-Tyler, International Paper, JCPenney, Southern Arkansas University, Texarkana College, Texas A&M University – Texarkana and Texas High School Project.

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