



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 17, 2012

**CONTACT:**

Tina Veal-Gooch  
Director of Public Relations  
903.794.3651 ext. 1013

**TEXARKANA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**  
**SURPRISES TEACHERS AND CAMPUSES**  
**WITH \$22,350 AWARDED IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM GRANTS**

**Texarkana, TX** – Texarkana Public Schools Foundation recently surprised thirty-two Texarkana Independent School District teachers and five campus programs by approving and awarding every grant application received during their annual submission time period for the Innovative Educator Grant program.

A total of \$22,350.04 was distributed in grants to teachers and campuses to assist them in developing innovative and imaginative instructional programs which promote student achievement and advance new approaches to teaching.

The Texarkana Public Schools Foundation was established in 2003 by a group of citizens dedicated to enriching and maximizing the educational opportunities for students and staff at TISD through funding that is not available from local, state or federal sources. Through community support, the foundation works toward building a legacy of excellence in education, ensuring that every child and teacher has the tools necessary for success. To date, the Texarkana Public Schools Foundation has awarded approximately \$108,000 in grants to district teachers.

Teachers and campus programs receiving Innovative Educator Grants, along with program name are:

**Amanda Atwell – “Bringing Color to Science”**

**Meredith Bennett – “Digital Photography”**

**Teresa Bennett – “Catching Tigers by the Tales”**

**Paula Burris – “Starfall for All”**

**Samuel Coston – “Multiple Sensory Learning”**

**Kaye Crank – “The Cay: One Island Across the Curriculum”**

**April Davis – “iLearn”**

**Karen Downs – “iPad Digital Masters: Turning On the Power to Increase Students Interest in Literacy”**

**Tonya Dumdei – “Reading for the STAARs!”**

**Dunbar Intermediate Center – “iPads for iCA@D”**

**-MORE-**

**Sonya Freeze – “Just the Facts”**  
**Amy Frierson – “iCelsius at iMorriss”**  
**Casey Grant – “Where’s the SMATH”**  
**Jimmie Anne Graves – “Special Tools for Special Kids”**  
**Beth Greening – “From iPod to iPad2”**  
**Highland Park Elementary School – “Apple Talk”**  
**Elizabeth Ingram – “1,2,3...Cheese”**  
**Nichole Keener – “I’m Still On My Journey”**  
**Jessica Kline – “Do You See What I See?”**  
**Nancy Lanier – “Show What You Know”**  
**Julie Monholland – “Lights, Camera, MATH!!!”**  
**Beth Murphy – “MOBI VIEW”**  
**Nash Elementary School – “Brain Training & Shooting for the STAAR”**  
**Maria Primm – “Building Simple Machines!”**  
**Katren Rankin – “Expanding Minds”**  
**Phillip Parrish – “HP Real Student Mentoring Program”**  
**Gail Peterson – “Garden Home”**  
**Sarah Props – “Math & Science Rocks”**  
**Emily Ransom – “Bilingual Library Collection”**  
**Kim Spaulding – “CSSI: Crime Scene Science Investigation”**  
**Kelli Thomerson – “P.E....Positively Essential!”**  
**Agnes Tirrito – “Poetry In Motion”**  
**TISD Nursing & Health Services – “Eyewear Program”**  
**Allyn Turner – “Me and My Character”**  
**Nathan Upchurch & Meagan Martin – “Individualized Instruction with Livescribe”**  
**Waydean Waller – “We’ve Got Manners”**  
**Westlawn Elementary School – “Kindling a Love for Reading”**

**###**

**PHOTO IDENTIFICATION:**

Teachers representing various TISD campuses join in on the celebration as the Texarkana Public Schools Foundation awards \$22,350 in Innovative Grants to TISD teachers and campuses.

**Pictured left to right are:**

**FRONT ROW:**

**Tonja Hays, Member, Texarkana Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors**  
**Wanda Boyette, President, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees**  
**Nichole Keener, Teacher, OPTIONS Academic Alternative High School**  
**Waydean Waller, Teacher, Nash Elementary School**  
**Sonya Freeze, Teacher, Nash Elementary School**

**BACK ROW:**

**Donna Chatman, Member, Texarkana Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors**  
**Beth Greening, Teacher, Texas Middle School**  
**Derrick McGary, Member, Texarkana Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors**  
**Paul Norton, Superintendent, Texarkana Independent School District**  
**Teresa Bennett, Library Media Specialist, Texas Middle School**