



PRESS RELEASE

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

**TEXAS MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATOR CHOSEN AS
REGION VIII SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**



Texarkana, TX – Donna Hunt, Texas Middle School 7th Grade Science Teacher, has been selected to represent Region VIII Education Service Center as the Secondary Teacher of the Year and will now move forward as a Finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year.

Since 1969, the Texas State Teacher of the Year (TOY) Program has honored excellence in classroom education and provided a forum to showcase many outstanding educators whose efforts and example have inspired their students, their colleagues and the communities they serve.

“We are so excited that Mrs. Hunt has been chosen for this honor,” commented Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. “She shows compassion for all students but knows that compassion meets the student where they are and challenges them to grow beyond their circumstance. Her positive work ethic strengthens the profession of teaching with not only our students but her fellow teachers and co-workers.”

Hunt has twenty-seven years of experience in the field of education. She began her career in 1983 with Alba-Golden Independent School District teaching fifth grade. From 1988 - 2007, she was with DeKalb Independent School District where she taught Language Arts for fourth through seventh grade. Hunt joined the Texarkana Independent School District Tiger Family in 2007 serving as 7th Grade Science Teacher and Team Leader at Texas Middle School.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Texas A&M University – Commerce and will complete her Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction in December 2011 with Texas A&M University – Texarkana. Her certifications are in Science (grades 4-8), Secondary Life-Earth Science (grades 6-12), Elementary Physical Education (grades 1-8) and Elementary Self-Contained (grades 1-8).

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Hunt has been an active member of the Association of Texas Professional Educators for over 15 years and in 2010 was chosen to attend the National STEM Conference to focus on synergistic module instruction.

At the front of Hunt's room there is a quote, "There is no such thing as a bad kid; however, sometimes a kid has a bad problem. Let's help solve the problem." She authored this quote in 1982 as a way to keep her focus as an educator purposeful and to communicate to her students how she views them. During the first week of school, she starts building relationships with her students and works with them in developing the culture of the room. But, at the same time, she reminds them that she will be the toughest teacher they will ever love.

According to Donna McDaniel, Principal of Texas Middle School, "It is imperative to Mrs. Hunt to equip her students with an "I Can" attitude." "She knows that it is important to offer a child a hand upward in order to push, pull and dare our children to perceive what is possible through their own efforts. Mrs. Hunt teaches them that with a solid work ethic and perseverance as key attributes, they can be successful."

As the Region VIII ESC Secondary Teacher of the Year, Hunt will be recognized during the TEA State Board of Education Teacher of the Year Banquet in Austin in October. She will serve as a travelling ambassador for public education to speak for, motivate and exemplify the contributions of the teaching profession along with helping to identify and recruit teachers.

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