



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD HONORS HIGH SCHOOL AVID TEACHER AND LOCAL MEDIA
DURING JULY BOARD MEETING**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, July 21, 2009 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees took the opportunity to honor one of their own as well as area media named to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) 2009 Media Honor Roll.

Monica Washington, Texas High School AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher, was recognized for being selected as the only teacher speaker for the AVID Summer Institute held in Dallas.

Her dynamic presentation to over 4,000 fellow AVID educators and students focused on her role as an AVID teacher and how it differs from specific content area teaching.

Washington has been with TISD since 2007. She holds a Bachelor Degree in English & Elementary Education from LeMoyne-Owen College and a Master Degree in English from University of Memphis. Prior to coming to TISD, Washington worked with the Memphis City School District as a Language Arts Teacher for grades 7-9 at Chickasaw Middle School and as an English Teacher for grades 10-11 at Hollis F. Price Middle College High School. Additionally, she served as an Adjunct Professor with LeMoyne-Owen College.

AVID is a fourth through twelfth grade system that prepares students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students and in closing the achievement gap. The AVID program at TISD began in 2004 and has 250 middle and high school students participating in the program.

Other recognitions for the evening were to area media members were named to the Media Honor Roll, a program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), by Texarkana Independent School District. The Media

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Honor Roll recognizes media representatives statewide who deserve recognition for fair and balanced reporting of news about public schools. Media representatives from approximately 450 Texas newspapers and radio and television stations were honored by their local districts.

Criteria for the district selection included the media representative's efforts to get to know the superintendent, board president, and the district's mission and goals; report school news in a fair, accurate, and balanced manner; give a high profile to positive news about schools; visit the schools; and maintain a policy of no surprises by sharing information with school officials.

"Districts across Texas appreciate these reporters for their balanced and accurate approach to sharing both the challenges facing our schools and the successes achieved by local teachers, students, and school boards. Their work aids local communities in focusing on the goal of providing the best public schools we can for every child," said Robert Seward, TASB president.

Local media named to the 2009 TASB Media Honor Roll are:

CableOne – Jay Butler & Donna Chatman

Four States Living Magazine – Robin Court & Suzy Turner

FSD Radio - Fabienne Thrash

GAP Broadcasting - John Williams

KLFI-TV - Jan Morgan Harrison

KLFI-TV - Salli Brown

KSLA-TV - Fred Gamble

KTAL-TV

KTBS-TV - Julie Parr

KTEV-TV – Al Davis

KTXK-FM - Sabrina McCormick

Texarkana Community Journal – Paul Keener

Texarkana Gazette - Marie Martin

Texarkana Radio - John McCoy

TASB is a nonprofit organization established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve more than 4.6 million public school students.

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