



NEWS

Texas
Education
Agency

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April 23, 2008

Communities in Schools presents the Best of Texas Awards, recognizing everyday people doing extraordinary things

AUSTIN – Every year, hundreds of individuals volunteer their time and effort towards the Communities In Schools (CIS) program, an exemplary dropout prevention program administered by the Texas Education Agency. These individuals contribute in various ways towards a common goal: keeping Texas youth in school and better prepared for a post-secondary education.

In conjunction with Volunteer Month, the Communities In Schools State Advisory Committee will host the CIS Best of Texas Awards ceremony and luncheon, Thursday, to recognize 11 individuals who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and their support of the CIS program. The luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriot, 300 E 4th St, Austin.

“It is a privilege and an honor to recognize these 11 individuals that have done extraordinary things through their commitment to give back to their communities and support the CIS program,” said Gonzalo Barrientos, board chair of the CIS State Advisory Committee, which sponsors the event. This is the seventh year that CIS has recognized outstanding contributions by unique individuals.

For more information on the Best of Texas Awards contact Nellie Reyes, CIS director, (512) 463-1218.

The 2008 Best of Texas Awards will be presented to:

Paul Lane Award of Excellence, Eric Metcalf, CIS Central Texas

Board Member of the Year, Jeff Morris, CIS Dallas Region

Executive Director of the Year, Peter Wuenschel, CIS Bay Area

Staff Member of the Year, Jessica Weaver, CIS of San Antonio

Volunteer of the Year, Pete Cross, CIS Dallas Region

Parent of the Year, Sonia E. Islas, CIS El Paso

Student of the Year, Linzie Bradshaw, CIS of the Heart of Texas

Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Dawson Orr, CIS of the Greater Wichita Falls Area

Principal of the Year, Judy Ratlief, CIS of San Antonio

Teacher of the Year, Mary Lathan, CIS Southeast Texas

Business of the Year, CPS Energy, CIS of San Antonio

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