

## **CY-FAIR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AT OCTOBER 28 "SALUTE TO THE STARS" GALA**

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District teachers have challenges coming at them from all directions, yet they consistently excel in the classroom, and in fact, have helped propel the school district to a "Recognized" rating for the third straight year.

The Cy-Fair Educational Foundation will honor Cy-Fair ISD's outstanding "Spotlight Teachers" at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Salute to the Stars Gala on October 28 at the Richard E. Berry Educational Support Center.

The Foundation and its supporters present the event each year to honor Spotlight Teachers, and to raise funds for Cy-Fair ISD's Instructional Excellence Grant program and CFEF's student scholarship program.

"The Salute to the Stars Gala is so named to honor our teachers, who are the stars of our district," said Ted Lewis, Dean of Instruction at Lone Star College-CyFair, who is co-chairing the 2010 event with Lauri Baker, a counselor at Cy-Fair ISD's Arnold Middle School. "Each year, Cy-Fair ISD recognizes one teacher from each of its campuses as 'Spotlight Teachers.' These educators demonstrate a passion for teaching, a deep commitment to their chosen profession, demonstrated success in their classrooms, and represent the best of the best."

The 2009 event raised more than \$151,000.

Lewis said the event draws support from more than 850 business leaders, community leaders, elected officials, and educators, who have contributed \$1.1 million for teacher grants and student scholarships since the inaugural gala.

"This gala provides an opportunity for our community to show its support for our teachers and recognize their success," Lewis said.

He said the 2010 gala's success also depends on that foundation of support, and there are a variety of opportunities for participation.

Table sponsorships are available at different price levels and start at \$1,250, Lewis said. Individuals or companies wishing to support this event can also purchase ads in the program, donate items to be raffled, or volunteer to serve on the Salute to the Stars Planning Committee.

"An event of this magnitude would not be successful without the support of its many sponsors," he said. "This year, we are once again fortunate to have the Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union serve as the underwriter for this gala."

Debbie Blackshear, CFEF board chairwoman and Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union President, said Salute to the Stars is an opportunity to highlight the "best of the best" in Cy-Fair ISD while raising funds for grants and scholarships.

"I love that we combine recognizing educators who make a difference in the lives of our kids with raising money for classroom innovation grants," Blackshear said. "Each Spotlight Teacher will be the honoree at his or her own table, which are sponsored by generous donors."

The Cy-Fair ISD school board saluted the Spotlight Teachers – from 50 elementary schools, 27 secondary schools and four special programs facilities – at a special meeting in May.

“We are so excited each year to have the chance to recognize our Spotlight teachers at a black-tie event in their honor,” said Marie Holmes, CFEF Executive Director. “We can never repay them for all that they do, but we can put them in the spotlight for one night and express our deep gratitude for their invaluable commitment to our children and community.”

Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year in the Cy-Fair ISD community, CFEF also raised more than \$52,000 at the second annual Salute to Our Heroes event in February, and \$111,000 at the annual B.F. Adam Classic golf tournament in May.

#### **Cy-Fair ISD’s 2010 Spotlight Teachers:**

##### **Instructional Strategist:**

- **Amy Calhoun**, Tipps ES; **Nancy Devlin**, Andre’ ES; **Nicole Domingues**, Hamilton MS; **Carolyn Jacobs**, Gleason ES; **Melissa Reid**, Willbern ES; and **Kimberly M. Wilson**, Thornton MS.

##### **Creator of Student-Centered Environment:**

- **Amy Aguilar**, M. Robinson ES; **Sharon Anderson**, Black ES; **Sally Arce**, Francone ES; **Grisselle Betancourt**, Matzke ES; **Elizabeth Bradley**, Aragon MS; **Mark Breerwood**, Cypress Springs HS; **Delaine Crow**, Carlton Center; **Mary Duhon**, Hemmenway ES; **Gloria Elsner**, Hancock ES; **Danna Spears Ferris**, Fiest ES; **Courtney Foerster**, Hopper MS; **Kim Fox**, Sampson ES; **Patricia Garza**, Lee ES; **Lisa Harrison**, Langham Creek HS; **Kyndra Hartzler**, Postma ES; **Mary Catherine Kadleck**, Wilson ES; **Tricia LaMarca**, Millsap ES; **Don Murchison**, Adaptive Behavior Center; **Beth Muyskens**, Bleyl MS; **Gina Reuter**, Duryea ES; **Becky Sallade**, Adam ES; **Leslie Schmidt**, Hairgrove ES; **Daniele Sebastian**, Truitt MS; **Michelle Smith**, Cypress Ridge HS; **Susan Niezgodski Smith**, Sheridan ES; **Jennifer Soto**, Keith ES; **Karen Webb**, A. Robison ES; **Brandi Wickel**, McFee ES; **Plas Williams Jr**, Campbell MS; and **Angie Yurch**, Labay MS.

##### **Positive Role Model:**

- **Jenneka Baham-Taylor**, Post ES; **Meagan Barnhart**, Yeager ES; **Keshia Moore Chatman**, Metcalf ES; **Kathy Fortune**, Cook MS; **Vicki Fretwell**, Cy-Fair HS; **Wendy Hankins**, Kirk ES; **Sheri Hoffman**, Ault ES; **Doreen Jarvis**, Smith MS; **Christine A. LeBlanc**, Walker ES; **Laura Lyon**, Cypress Lakes HS; **Tara Magallan**, Spillane MS; **Lisa Manuel**, Alternative Learning Center-West; **Lori Marshall**, Lowery ES; **Ruby McLellan**, Lamkin ES; **Naheed Mujtaba**, Holbrook ES; **Paige Buchorn Phares**, Goodson MS; **Sandra A. Pichardo-Longenecker**, Reed ES; **Christina Porter**, Holmsley ES; **Karen Purdy**, Swenke ES; **Lynette Rampersad**,

Copeland ES; **Karen Anglin Richardson**, Farney ES; **Evelyn Shephard**, Kahla ES; **Gail M.P. Stephens**, Cypress Falls HS; and **Taylor Webb**, Arnold MS.

**Lifelong Learner:**

- **Deborah Crawford**, Jersey Village HS; **Jennifer Dove**, Warner ES; **Leanna Harper**, Danish ES; **Abigail Hawes**, Moore ES; **Sarah Johnson**, Owens ES; **Jennifer LeBlanc**, Alternative Learning Center-East; **Jennifer Leonard**, Cypress Creek HS; **Jeanetta Mieth**, Bang ES; **Stephanie Morrison**, Horne ES; **Jessica Nance**, Windfern HS; **Liz Silva**, Jowell ES; **Traci Underwood**, Cypress Woods HS; **Lisa Voelkel**, Birkes ES; **Wil Watkins**, Dean MS; **Tracy Westbye**, Watkins MS; **Winx Whitney**, Hamilton ES; and **Kay Wingate**, Frazier ES.

**Team Player:**

- **Susan Bergholtz**, Bane ES; **Donna Copeland**, Emmott ES; **Dawn McGuffin Nixon**, Cypress Ranch HS; and **Cynthia Norris**, Lieder ES.

Additionally, Frazier Elementary's **Claudia Duran** was named the Paraprofessional Spotlight Award winner and Hemmenway Elementary's **Deborah Blasdell** was the Paraprofessional Spotlight runner-up. Cypress Woods' **Melvin Bell** was the Support Staff Spotlight winner and Cypress Ranch's **Rosa Margarita Giron** was the Support Staff Spotlight runner-up.