



Texas School Public Relations Association

406 East 11th Street, Suites 101-105, Austin, Texas 78701-2617

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TSPRA members honored with 2016 Star Awards

GALVESTON (February 23, 2017) – Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) members from across the state received honors from the association for their outstanding work in education communications earning Gold Star, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Best of Category, Certificate of Merit, Crystal Commendation and/or Platinum awards. The awards were announced at TSPRA's annual Star Awards Celebration held February 22, 2017 at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort in Galveston, Texas during the association's 55th annual conference.

West, a provider of communication solutions for thousands of school districts, colleges, private schools and other institutions, is the sponsor for the 2016 Crystal and Platinum awards.

This year the Garland Independent School District won the top Platinum Award for its entry "The area's newest Montessori is just around the corner." A full list of winners is available on TSPRA's website at <http://www.tspra.org/awards/star-awards/star-awards-archive>.

Each year, TSPRA recognizes communicators in school districts, education foundations, education associations and organizations for their work in print and electronic media categories. There are 45 main categories covering various media such as newsletters, programs, posters, reports, writing, image/identity packages, photography, graphics, video, electronic presentations, mobile apps, campaigns, events and web sites. Larger, more comprehensive projects and special programs are entered in one of nine Crystal Commendation categories or the Platinum Award category. The Platinum Award honors a year-long project that exhibits the highest standards of excellence in all facets according to research, analysis, communication and evaluation.

This year, 1082 entries were received. For the first 45 categories, the entries are divided into three divisions based on the number of students the district, foundation or organizations serves - under 10,000 students; 10,000 to 30,000 students; and over 30,000 students. Independent judges evaluate and score each entry based on its own merit. Bronze, Silver and Gold Stars are awarded based on set criteria. Finally, the judges review their highest scoring Gold Star winners and select a Best of Category for each division in each of the 45 categories

TEXAS CHAPTER NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION

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Crystal and Platinum entries are not split into divisions and there is only one Crystal winner in each category. Judges are permitted to award a Certificate of Merit to Crystal entries that deserved some recognition, although they did not receive the main award. The Crystal categories are: Video Portfolio, Photography Portfolio, Bond Elections; Parent Involvement/Volunteer Programs; Staff/Student Recognitions; School/Community Partnerships; District/Association Special Events/Celebrations; Foundation Special Events/Celebrations; and Foundation Annual Campaigns. No Bronze, Silver or Gold Stars are awarded in the Crystal categories.

Of the 1082 entries this year, the judges awarded one Platinum Award, five Platinum Certificates of Merit, eight Crystal Commendations, 21 Crystal Certificates of Merit, 109 Best of Categories, 494 Gold Stars, 351 Silver Stars and 158 Bronze Stars. Since TSPRA members enter only their best work, it is not uncommon for there to be very few entries that do not earn any type of award.

The Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) is a nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to promoting public schools through effective communications. TSPRA, an award winning chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA), was chartered in 1962 and incorporated in 1977. With more than 900 members, TSPRA is comprised primarily of public information and communications professionals who serve the public school districts and education organizations of Texas. The membership also includes superintendents, administrators, principals, web/technology/electronic media and graphic professionals, education foundation executive directors and their boards, association executive directors, school consultants, vendors and others who support public education in the state. TSPRA provides professional development, resources and networking opportunities for members and others in the education community.

For additional information contact the TSPRA state office at 512-474-9107; info@tspra.org

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