



Texas School Public Relations Association

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

Phone (512) 474-9107 or (800) 880-9107 • Fax (512) 477-0906 • www.tspra.org

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Contact: Janet Crock

Phone: 512-474-9107; 800-880-9107

email: janet@tspra.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TSPRA members honored with 2015 Star Awards

AUSTIN (February 24, 2016) – 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 24, 2016 at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Horseshoe Bay, Texas during the association's 54th annual conference.



SchoolMessenger, a provider of communication solutions for thousands of school districts, colleges, private schools and other institutions, is Platinum awards.



This year the Garland Independent School District won the top Platinum Award for its entry "Tradition Rich. Future Ready. Garland ISD's 2014 Bond Journey." 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 44 main categories covering various media such as newsletters, programs, posters, reports, writing, image/identity packages, photography, graphics, video, electronic presentations, mobile apps, campaigns and web sites. Larger, more comprehensive projects and special programs are entered in one of eight 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, 1159 entries were received. For the first 44 categories, the entries are divided into three divisions based on the number of students the district, foundation or organization serves - under 10,000 students; 10,000 to 30,000 students; and over 30,000 students. Independent judges, not affiliated with TSPRA, 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 44 categories.

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Crystal and Platinum entries are not split into divisions and there is only one winner Crystal winner in each category. For the first time, judges were permitted to award a Certificate of Merit to Crystal entries that deserved some recognition, although not the main award. The Crystal categories are: Video Portfolio, Bond Elections; Parent Involvement/Volunteer Programs; School/Community Partnerships; Staff/Student Recognitions; 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 1159 entries this year, the judges awarded one Platinum Award, three Platinum Certificates of Merit, seven Crystal Commendations, 17 Crystal Certificates of Merit, 108 Best of Categories, 496 Gold Stars, 365 Silver Stars and 211 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 850 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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