

# Association of Texas Professional Educators

305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78752  
(800) 777-ATPE • (512) 467-0071 • [www.atpe.org](http://www.atpe.org)

**Supporting Your Freedom to Teach<sup>SM</sup>**

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**Media contact: Ashley Anthony**  
**Cell phone: (281) 217-2347**  
**Email: [aanthony@atpe.org](mailto:aanthony@atpe.org)**

## **More than 1,000 educators to attend ATPE conference**

AUSTIN – The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) will host the 2011 ATPE Summit July 20–23 at the Austin Convention Center.

“ATPE is excited to bring more than 1,000 of the best educators from across Texas to Austin,” said ATPE State President David de la Garza. “With substantial cuts being made to public education, it is vital for ATPE to honor the accomplishments of educators. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our members to learn and grow no matter what their role in public education. Whether they’re administrators, teachers, assistants, counselors or nurses, we want them to feel valued in the education profession so that they can continue to make a difference everyday in the lives of Texas schoolchildren.”

Approximately 1,200 educators are expected to attend the ATPE members-only conference.

“One of the greatest opportunities at the ATPE Summit will be the chance to network with educators from across the state,” said ATPE Member Services Director Amy White. “Learning from each other is a great opportunity.”

The event will include 15 different ATPE leader training sessions as well as five professional development sessions covering topics such as teaching homeless students, educating gifted students and closing the student achievement gap.

During the conference, ATPE will induct new state, region and local unit officers for 2011-12, conduct the organization’s annual governance meeting, the ATPE House of Delegates, and provide training to volunteer leaders so that they can spread ATPE’s message of supporting quality public education to their colleagues.

Special guest speakers at the event will include award winning author and advocate for public education equality Jonathan Kozol. There will be a book signing with Kozol followed by a special one-on-one conversation with the author led by Texas Tribune CEO and Editor-in-Chief Evan Smith.

Educator and award winning author Brad Cohen, who will share his story about overcoming challenges of Tourette syndrome to become Georgia Teacher of the Year, is also scheduled to speak at the ATPE Summit.

For information about attending the ATPE Summit, call (800) 777-ATPE or visit [www.atpe.org/summit](http://www.atpe.org/summit). For media inquiries, please contact Ashley Anthony at (512) 467-0071 or [aanthony@atpe.org](mailto:aanthony@atpe.org).

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*The 116,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators is the largest educators' group in Texas and the largest nonunion educators' group nationwide. Its membership consists of classroom teachers, para-educators, administrators, college students and retired educators. ATPE is committed to advocating for better benefits for all educators, promoting a collaborative work environment and the right of educators to choose the association they feel represents their interests, and providing the best education possible for all Texas school children.*