

Association of Texas Professional Educators

305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78752

(800) 777-ATPE • (512) 467-0071 • atpe.org

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Media contact: Ashley Anthony

Cell phone: (281) 217-2347

Email: aanthony@atpe.org

ATPE honors campus representatives of the year

AUSTIN – The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) presented three of its members with the Campus Representative of the Year Award July 22 during the ATPE Summit Membership Awards Luncheon at the Austin Convention Center.

Nacogdoches ATPE member Katherine Whitbeck was presented the Campus Representative of the Year Award for local units with one to 500 members.

“I am in awe of the sense of service which all of our ATPE volunteers possess,” Whitbeck said. She is a high school English and ESL teacher for Nacogdoches ISD. “I appreciate their ideas for creating positive experiences for their colleagues, students, and community and admire the energy needed to implement those ideas. I am happy to share this Campus Rep of the Year honor with the Nacogdoches Local Unit, Nacogdoches ISD, and all of Nacogdoches.”

In the category for local units with 501 to 1,000 members, Roger Gutierrez of Weslaco ATPE won the Campus Representative of the Year Award.

“I feel very honored and privileged to receive an award from the Association of Texas Professional Educators,” Gutierrez said. He teaches fourth-grade math and science at Rudy Silva Elementary School in Weslaco ISD. “There is a lot of hard work, planning, and dedication that goes into being an effective Campus Representative. It is awesome to be recognized for my efforts by the preeminent teacher association in Texas.”

Monica Gonzalez-Rios of Corpus Christi ATPE won the Campus Representative of the Year Award in the category for local units with 1,001-plus members.

“To be honored in this manner is such an unexplainable feeling,” Gonzalez-Rios said. She is a senior administrative assistant at Crockett Elementary School in Corpus Christi ISD. “The congratulations that I have received from my local unit and many colleagues is tremendous. I can truly say that I didn’t realize how much I was respected by the work that I do for ATPE and the campus that I work at. It is such a great feeling.”

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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.