

Association of Texas Professional Educators

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School secretary named Associate Educator of the Year

AUSTIN – Deer Creek Elementary School secretary Carolyn Williams of Crowley, Texas was honored as the Associate Educator of the Year July 21 by the state’s largest educators group. Williams, who has 19 years of education experience, was presented with the honor during the 2011 ATPE Summit Awards Banquet hosted by the Association of Texas Professional Educators at the Austin Convention Center.

“Seeing a room full of educators that love children means a lot to me because I love those kiddos,” Williams said after accepting the award. “I thank ATPE very much.”

Williams of Crowley ISD was one of two finalists for the award. Kim Washington, a life skills aide at Calhoun Middle School in Denton ISD, was the other finalist.

When Williams applied for the award, she wrote in her application that an “outstanding associate is an employee that is totally committed to the students and parents and are willing to be a servant to their needs.”

“I have always tried my best to make our students and their family know that this is their school, and I want them to take ownership and feel the very best they can about it,” Williams said.

Nearly 1,000 people celebrated the achievements of public school educators at the banquet where awards were presented to educators in administrator, associate, elementary and secondary teacher, and special services categories.

Attendees at the four-day ATPE Summit also had the opportunity to attend professional development workshops, participate in the organization’s annual governance meeting, the ATPE House of Delegates, and new state officers for 2011-12.

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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.