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

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**Media contact: Ashley Anthony**  
**Office: (512) 467-0071**  
**Email: [aanthony@atpe.org](mailto:aanthony@atpe.org)**

## **Texas Regional Teacher of the Year Gathering allows educators to share best practices**

AUSTIN – The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Foundation will honor some of the best teachers in Texas at its Texas Regional Teacher of the Year Gathering scheduled for June 4-5 at The Westin Austin at the Domain. More than 20 of this year’s Texas Regional Teachers of the Year, including the 2012 Secondary Teacher of the Year Stephanie Stoebe of Round Rock ISD and the 2012 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year Karen Morman of McKinney ISD, are planning to attend.

The ATPE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and public charity dedicated to the advancement of public education and the success of Texas schoolchildren through educator recruitment and retention efforts, literacy initiatives and technology programs. Each year, the foundation awards literacy and technology grants to Texas public schools and scholarships to students studying education.

The Texas Regional Teacher of the Year Gathering will include guided focus groups, professional learning on topics such as teacher preparation and mentoring programs as well as a special reception with community leaders and supporters of public education.

Ann Marie Taylor, 2008 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, will be the keynote speaker at 1:15 p.m., June 4. This fellow teacher of the year will inspire attendees to be excited and passionate about teaching as well as provide tips on how they can continue to create excellence in the classroom and be a catalyst for change as a leader in teaching.

This will be the foundation’s second year in a row hosting the Texas Regional Teacher of the Year Gathering. The goal of the program is to honor the accomplishments of innovative educators in Texas and to gather information for a report that will be shared later with education advocates, school districts and lawmakers for the advancement of public education.

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**What :**

The ATPE Foundation hosts the Texas Regional Teacher of the Year Gathering

**When :**

June 4-5, 2012

**Where:**

The Westin Austin at the Domain, 11301 Domain Drive

**Highlights of the event include:**

- A special keynote presentation called *Be the Change: A Message from One Teacher of the Year to Another* by 2008 South Carolina Teacher of the Year Ann Marie Taylor, 1:15 p.m., Monday, June 4 followed by an interactive session, *How Can You Be the Change?*, at 2:30 p.m.
- A special reception, 5:30-7 p.m., Monday, June 4
- Seven (7) hours of continuing professional education
- Sessions for teachers to share best practices and collaborate on ideas that will help other Texas educators

*The ATPE Foundation was established in 2000 by the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), the state's leading educators' association and the largest independent association for public school educators in the nation. The foundation is dedicated to the advancement of public education and the success of Texas schoolchildren through literacy initiatives, technology programs, and educator recruitment and retention efforts.*