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Association of Texas Professional Educators

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Houston ISD teacher wins \$1,000 grant from ATPE

AUSTIN — Houston Independent School District English teacher Stephanie Moreno was selected as the recipient of a \$1,000 Grant for Teaching Excellence award in the secondary category from the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE). Moreno teaches at Waltrip High School in Houston.

Moreno's grant project will include organizing a poetry slam in which students will perform original poems for a special event at school. She also plans to publish their work in a book. The grant will be used to purchase 100 composition notebooks, two color printers, book binding spines, presentation paper, and card stock paper.

Moreno's goal is to improve student writing and public speaking skills. Her students will practice writing and performing poetry.

“This will encourage students to write more as they see their work published,” Moreno wrote in her grant application. “Students will have the opportunity to participate in an academic setting unlike their normal routine.”

The ATPE Grant for Teaching Excellence acknowledges outstanding and creative ATPE members who develop programs or proposals intended to improve the quality of education for the students in their classroom. Applications are reviewed and judged by the Grant for Teaching Excellence committee.

Two \$1,000 awards are presented each year, one to an elementary-level applicant and the other to a secondary -level applicant. Recipients are also honored during the ATPE Summit and receive complimentary registration to the education conference held during the summer in Austin.

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With more than 110,000 members, the Association of Texas Professional Educators is the preeminent educators' association 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.

