



The Association of Texas Professional Educators
305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78752
(800) 777-ATPE • (512) 467-0071 • atpe.org

PSJA ISD Teacher Named Elementary School Teacher of the Year

ATPE, Texas' largest educators' association, honors educators from across the state at its inaugural virtual Summit



AUSTIN, Texas—**Michael Sweet**, a teacher with Carman Elementary in Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (ISD), was recently honored with the Charles Pickitt Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award by **the Association of Texas Professional Educators** (ATPE) during the 2020 ATPE Summit, which was held virtually for the first time this year.

“Now more than ever, it is important that we recognize the truly outstanding educators here in Texas,” said **Shannon Holmes**, ATPE Executive Director. “These educators were selected for this honor for their dedication to ensuring that our children receive the highest quality of education, even in these most challenging of times, and for serving as true inspirations for generations of educators to come.”

The Charles Pickitt Educator of the Year Awards annually recognize ATPE members who demonstrate exceptional or innovative capabilities in their respective educational fields. This year’s winners each received a \$5,000 prize along with their awards.

Sweet was honored during a virtual session during the 2020 ATPE Summit, which, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, was streamed online to ATPE members across Texas. With nearly 100,000 members statewide, ATPE is the largest educators’ association in the state and serves as a major voice for public education.

In addition to recognizing outstanding members and educators, ATPE leaders and members from each of the association’s **20 regions** take part in the ATPE Summit each year in order to vote on a variety of new initiatives for the association, elect and formally induct new state officers, and train new volunteers. This year was no different. ATPE made use of state-of-the-art technology and partnerships to provide its members with a top-tier and complete virtual conference experience from the comforts of their home.

Throughout the weeklong virtual conference, ATPE attendees also had the opportunity to earn hours of continuing professional education credit, virtually collaborate with fellow educators on a variety

of education-related initiatives, and gain new insights into the state of public education in Texas today from ATPE's experienced staff.

To learn more about ATPE Summit, visit www.atpesummit.org.

For more information about ATPE's prestigious awards, visit www.atpe.org/About-ATPE/Awards-Grants.

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About the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

Founded in 1980, ATPE is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, and future, retired, and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for Texas' five million public school students. | atpe.org