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# Association of Texas Professional Educators

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## **Denton ISD teacher wins \$1,000 grant from ATPE**

AUSTIN — Denton Independent School District second grade teacher Jeanetta Byrd was selected as the recipient of a \$1,000 Grant for Teaching Excellence award in the elementary category from the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE). Byrd teaches at Savannah Elementary School in Denton.

Byrd will use the grant funds to purchase eight Nooks to enrich math and reading skills of second graders. The e-reader and tablet will be used by students to read in small groups and independently. The digital tool will also be used for math lessons and workshops.

Byrd said her project will help meet her school district's goal to "actively pursue, foster and support an advanced digital learning environment." She said learning is not just about seeing and hearing but about "making connections, collaborating [and] being engaged."

"The Nooks will offer an innovative and creative learning environment for my students through the use of new media," Byrd wrote in her grant application. "It is our mission to someday place a mobile device in every child's hand. By considering this grant, you are helping to create a well-rounded 21<sup>st</sup> century student."

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.*