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### **Barrick Elementary wins \$1,500 ATPE Foundation literacy grant**

*HOUSTON, Texas* – Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Foundation Director Loree LeBoeuf recently made a special presentation to Barrick Elementary, recognizing the school for winning a \$1,500 literacy grant.

Barrick librarian Queneesa Alexander applied for the foundation’s Beth Ann Rogers Literacy Initiative Grant with the hope of adding new books to a library collection in which the average age of the books is 15 years old.

“More than 90 percent of my students are considered at-risk because of language and economic barriers,” Alexander wrote in her grant application. “Many come from homes where their parents don’t speak English, and they have never owned a brand new book.”

Barrick Elementary usually hosts two Book Fairs to raise money for books each year, but sales only allow for the purchase of about 25 new books. The school only had a \$1,000 annual library budget, but thanks to the literacy grant, their budget has been more than doubled. Alexander said that the school will use the literacy grant funds to add new, popular and classic books to an outdated collection.

Through the Beth Ann Rogers Literacy Initiative Grant, the foundation provides \$1,500 grants to seven Texas public school libraries for the purchase and modernization of literacy materials and resources each year. The grant is named in memory of longtime Texas educator Beth Ann Rogers, who worked as a teacher, principal and school librarian throughout her 36-year career in public education.

For more information about the ATPE Foundation, visit [atpefoundation.org](http://atpefoundation.org).

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*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.*