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Association of Texas Professional Educators

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Nacogdoches high school teacher wins Secondary Educator of the Year Award

AUSTIN – Nacogdoches Independent School District teacher Kimberly Cross was honored July 19 with the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Secondary Educator of the Year Award. Cross, a 16-year education veteran, was presented with the award plus a \$1,000 check during the 2013 ATPE Summit Awards Banquet held at the Austin Convention Center.

“It’s hard for me to brag about my accomplishments because the accomplishments really belong to my students,” Cross said. “I succeeded because of them, not in spite of them.”

Nearly 1,000 people celebrated the achievements of public school educators at the banquet, at which numerous awards were presented to educators who demonstrate exceptional and innovative skills in their respective education fields.

Cross, a world geography teacher at Nacogdoches High School, was one of three finalists for the award in the secondary category. ATPE’s Educator of the Year Award Committee was impressed with Cross’ teaching philosophy, commitment to education, leadership skills and her role in bringing a new teacher mentorship program to her campus.

“My passion is helping new teachers become effective teachers,” Cross said. “This passion comes from my struggles the first few years of my teaching career. I promised myself that if I ever had the opportunity to help new teachers, I would do my best to make sure they didn’t struggle alone.”

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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.