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Association of Texas Professional Educators

305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78752

(800) 777-ATPE • (512) 467-0071 • atpe.org

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Media contact: Ashley Anthony
Email: aanthony@atpe.org

Alternative school teacher wins Elementary Educator of the Year Award

AUSTIN – Diane Pokluda, a former teacher at the Crowley Learning Center in the Crowley Independent School District, was recently honored as the Elementary Educator of the Year by the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE). The 34-year education veteran was presented with the honor, which included a \$1,000 check, during the 2012 ATPE Summit Awards Banquet July 16 at the Austin Convention Center.

Pokluda was one of three finalists for the award. She recently began working as a field representative with ATPE in Region 11, handling member relations in the Dallas, Fort Worth and surrounding areas.

Nearly 800 people celebrated the achievements of public school educators at the banquet where awards were presented to educators in administrator, associate, elementary and secondary teacher, and special services categories.

Attendees at the ATPE Summit, the association's annual education conference, also had the opportunity to attend professional development sessions, hear from renowned educators, participate in the organization's annual governance meeting, the ATPE House of Delegates, and elect new state officers for 2012-13.

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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.