

# Association of Texas Professional Educators

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Special education assistant named Associate Educator of the Year**

AUSTIN – Crystal Parks, a special education teacher’s assistant at Neblett Elementary School in Sherman Independent School District, was named Associate Educator of the Year July 16 during the 2012 ATPE Summit Awards Banquet hosted by the Association of Texas Professional Educators at the Austin Convention Center. She was presented with a \$1,000 check from ATPE.

Parks has five years of teaching experience. She was one of two finalists for the award. Lisa Cook Douglas, a secretary at McAdams Junior High School in the Dickinson Independent School District, was the other finalist.

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.*