



Association of Texas Professional Educators
305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78752
(800) 777-ATPE • (512) 467-0071 • atpe.org

Media Advisory:
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Media Contact:
Stephanie Jacksis
Office: 512-467-0071
Cell: 281-760-8697
sjacksis@atpe.org

Local journalist first two-time Alafair Hammett Media Award winner
ATPE selects Gary Long of the Brownsville Herald

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) selected the *Brownsville Herald's* education reporter Gary Long to receive its award for his excellent public education news coverage.

Long is the first journalist to win the Alafair Hammett Media Award two times in the category for newspapers with circulations of under 25,000 readers.

The award will be presented at a banquet July 10 at the Austin Convention Center. The banquet will take place during the ATPE Summit, an annual education conference that more than 1,100 educators are expected to attend.

The media award was established both to honor Alafair Hammett, ATPE's first state president, and to recognize media outlets for their outstanding support and coverage of public education.

Recipients are selected by a panel of seven volunteer educators from around the state who serve on the association's public information committee. The committee was impressed by Long's reports about the Brownsville team that rose to the National Science Bowl as well as stories on local events and prep programs that expanded to give opportunities for Brownsville ISD students.

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The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with more than 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for 5 million public schoolchildren. ATPE is the ally and the voice of Texas public school educators.