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Association of Texas Professional Educators

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Actor, community activist Edward James Olmos to keynote education conference

AUSTIN – The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) will kick off its annual education conference with a special keynote by Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning actor Edward James Olmos. Olmos will speak to more than 1,000 public school employees in attendance at the 2013 ATPE Summit July 17–19 at the Austin Convention Center.

Olmos, also a producer, director and community activist, will share his inspiring story of how he succeeded beyond his circumstances and explain how diversity in our society works to everyone's advantage, particularly in public education. Olmos is the executive director of the Lives in Hazard Educational Project, a national gang prevention program funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. His keynote will be followed by the ATPE Summit's second annual Professional Learning and Networking (PLAN) Day.

The event includes professional learning sessions on classroom technology, literacy, school health, and mental illness in children and adolescents. There will also be a session on education advocacy that will provide an overview of the public education bills recently passed in the 83rd Texas Legislature. Attendees will be able to earn up to six hours of continuing professional education credit, collaborate with fellow educators and gain new insights from renowned speakers, thinkers and leaders in education.

During the conference, the association will honor its elected state officers through a formal induction ceremony, say farewell to Doug Rogers, its executive director for more than 24 years, and introduce the group's new leader, Gary Godsey.

For more information about the ATPE Summit sessions, speakers and award programs, visit atpesummit.org or call (800) 777-2873.

WHAT: ATPE Summit

WHEN: July 17-19, 2013

WHERE: Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX

MEDIA/PHOTO OP:

Wednesday, July 17

- Introduction of ATPE's new executive director, Gary Godsey, 8:30-8:45 a.m.
- Opening General Session featuring Actor Edward James Olmos, 8:45-9:45 a.m. **Following his keynote, Mr. Olmos will be available for media interviews.**
- Professional Learning and Networking (PLAN) Day Breakout Sessions. Various sessions are scheduled from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- ATPE Central, 5:45-9 p.m. *Stop by ATPE Central to find booths offering great tips, tools and resources for any educator. Enjoy live music and hors d'oeuvres, check out the live penguins from Sea World, and network with other educators from around the state.*

Friday, July 19

- ATPE Summit Awards Banquet, 7:30-9:30 p.m. *Educators and education advocates will be honored. Educators and support staff in administration, elementary education, secondary education and special services will be awarded and receive \$1,000 monetary awards.*

For press inquiries, please call ATPE media relations specialist Ashley Anthony at (512) 467-0071 or via mobile at (281) 217-2347.

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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.