

KISD'S ELLEN WILLIAMS NAMED 2010 REGIONAL G/T ADVOCATE OF THE GIFTED

Ellen Williams, the Kerrville Independent School District's (KISD's) Senior Director of Advanced Academics, was named the 2010 Regional Advocate for Region 20 by the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented (TAGT). TAGT is the largest state organization promoting gifted education in the United States.

Surprised by her nomination from KISD Challenge Lab teachers on all four elementary campuses, and supported in writing by KISD administrators and parents of the students she serves, Williams was notified by letter of her award and provided with details for her recognition which will take place at the organization's annual Professional Development Conference for Educators and Parents scheduled for November 2010 in Fort Worth. As the Region 20 recipient, she is eligible for consideration for the TAGT's State Awards for Advocate of the Year.

The Regional Advocate for the Year is given to a member of each Education Service Center in the state in recognition for outstanding service, contribution, and commitment to gifted education. Nominees from each of the state's 20 regions are identified and one per region is selected to be honored by TAGT. Candidates must demonstrate a commitment to gifted education by:

- Positively impacting gifted education at the local, regional, and/or state level.
- Promoting support for gifted education among key administrative and policy makers at all levels of government.
- Positively influencing students, parents, and/or educators.
- Creating and/or facilitating awareness and understanding of gifted and talented individuals.

Williams has 31 years experience in education, coming to KISD in 2004. She previously served as a teacher in Spring Branch, San Angelo, and Cypress Fairbanks school districts before becoming the gifted and talented coordinator in Cypress Fairbanks in 2001.

Williams commented, "I am grateful to the teachers, student, and administrators that nominated me for this recognition. Having worked with gifted children for many years, it is rewarding to know that my advocacy on the part of gifted education is appreciated. Like my superintendent, Dr. Dan Troxell, who is a former Region 20 TAGT Advocate of the Gifted award winner, my passion has always been to provide an appropriate level of challenge to each child according to his/her individual ability."

For more information on KISD's Gifted and Talented Program, contact Williams at (830)257-2200, ext. 223 or email ellen.williams@kerrvilleisd.net. For information about the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented or the Advocate of the Year Award, call the association offices at (512) 499-8248 or visit their website at www.txgifted.org.