

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Melisa A. Joyner, of Hondo, TX, is a network engineer at NCI INC. She served in the United States Navy as an information technologist. Mrs. Joyner attended school in the region, graduating with honors from Hondo High School. She received her BS degree, specializing in music education, from Wayland Baptist University, and will graduate in June with her Masters of Education, specializing in secondary education.

Mrs. Joyner is running for Region 20 Board of Education because she believes in giving back to the community to expand academics throughout the region. She also believes in a well rounded education, which includes the fine arts, for all students; to allow them the foundation to pursue their dreams.

Mrs. Joyner and her husband, Michael, have two girls, Ruby and Melody. Ruby was identified as being on the autism spectrum. Since Ruby was diagnosed, Melisa has dedicated her time to promoting early intervention and musical therapy- two key factors that have helped her daughter to progress and defeat enormous tasks.

Why do you want to serve on the ESC-20 Board?

Having an autistic daughter has its challenges, but having a degree in education gives me a new insight to the policies of special education and the growing pains. It has helped me become more passionate about education and grow as a parent, a leader, and as an educator. I, along with the many teachers and support staff, have helped Ruby overcome struggles. However, many parents do not have this knowledge and barely understand the ARD policies or the state laws. I believe that besides educating students, we must also educate parents in parent seminars.

While technology is continually changing, many educators and parents do not understand it enough to help students with it, or to use it in their teaching. Being a network engineer, I want to help others understand the technology better. Using technology in education is much more than "power point of death". We should inspire our students, especially female students, to achieve in technology.

The fine arts are quickly disappearing from our schools, and it's a shame. The arts offer so much to our students. Music for example, works both sides of the brain at the same time, a feat, which no other subject can do. Many countries require students to be involved in music until they graduate.

I want to serve to help education parents about the ARD and state laws; and to help promote the fine arts and a better use of technology.

What would be your contributions as a Board member?

I offer a "fresh" look into our policies and the ability to ask the hard questions: why, can we do better, is there another way, etc... I also offer a unique background in technology and music education. Leadership and fairness are two strong traits that I carry and strive for. Through multiple travels in the United States Navy, I have gained many multicultural insights, from language to customs that have lead me to understand why some groups actions and beliefs are unique. Through my positions in the Navy and as a network engineer, I have also had the privilege of training adult learners and developing many training programs and standards. It, along with my daughters, have given me an amazing passion that is ready to shape education that makes ALL countries envious of our system. It would honor and a privilege to serve on the ESC-20 Board.