

## **Board Recognition**

### **Feb. 11, 2025**

#### **Counseling Teams from Six Denton ISD Schools Earn Statewide Award for 14th Straight Year**

Counseling teams from six Denton ISD schools were recipients of a Texas School Counselor Association's (TSCA) CREST Award, which annually recognizes the top counselors in the state.

Counselors at the Gonzalez School for Young Children, Hodge and Sam Houston Elementary, and Harpool and Strickland Middle Schools received the prestigious honor – marking the 14th consecutive year that at least one Denton ISD campus has received a CREST award.

In addition, counselors at Rodriguez Middle School earned the CREST Leadership Award, which marks the fourth consecutive year they earned the distinction of having an exemplary comprehensive counseling program.

The CREST Award was introduced by the Texas School Counselor Association in 2005 to recognize excellence in school counseling. CREST stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas and is a program focusing on 10 areas where school counselors have the greatest impact on the achievements, career aspirations, personal gains and social aspects of students' lives. The program helps counselors evaluate their current counseling guidelines and techniques while also promoting their services to students and parents.

The Rodriguez Middle School counseling staff consists of Stephani Mohon, Paige Darragh and Michael Rooney. Strickland Middle School's counseling staff consists of Jennifer Brim, Bryonna Bridwell and Destinie Myers. Harpool Middle School's counseling staff consists of Hope Lewis, Sara Sartor and Misti Price. Sam Houston Elementary's counseling staff consists of Lacy Fraser, and Hodge Elementary's counseling staff consists of Armandina Austin and Emily Basaldua. The counselor at the Gonzalez School for Young Children is Kasi Mack.

*Denton ISD's Director of Counseling and Social Work is Amy Lawrence. The principal of Rodriguez Middle School is Carly Rogers. The principal of Harpool Middle School is Dr. Colleen Grindle. The principal of Strickland Middle School is Jeff Panter. The principal of Sam Houston Elementary is Tiffany Roussel. The principal of Hodge Elementary is Andrea Hare. The principal of the Gonzalez School for Young Children is Dr. Claudia Calvo-Montes.*

## **Four Denton ISD Students Selected to TDEA All-State Dance Team**

Four Denton ISD students were selected to the Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA) All-State Dance Team.

Amy Campos from Braswell High School, Rachel Crandall from Denton High School, Zoe Young from Guyer High School and Olivia Torres from Ryan High School were each selected to the all-state team, which is comprised of dancers representing schools from across the state of Texas.

All-State dancers participated in the TDEA All-State Convention Jan. 8-11 in Houston. The experience included dance workshops, leadership training, master classes and networking with other students. The All-State Dance Team experience culminates in a performance choreographed by a master choreographer.

*The dance directors at Braswell High School are Kristina Rankin and Tiana Martinez. The principal of Braswell High School is DeCorian Hailey. The dance directors at Denton High School are Kerri Burgess and Jamitrice Keating-Lynton Eneh. The principal of Denton High School is Joel Hays. The dance directors at Guyer High School are Rachel Simpson and Lauren Uddin. The principal of Guyer High School is Dr. Shaun Perry. The dance directors at Ryan High School are Keli Jones and Marina Cassidy. The principal of Ryan High School is Vernon Reeves.*

## **Community Spotlight**

### **Denton Black Film Festival Recognized for Work with Denton ISD**

Each year, the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) honors businesses, organizations and individuals for their support and exceptional advocacy of public schools. This statewide honor, as part of “Stand Up for Texas Public Schools,” recognizes local businesses and community organizations that partner with school districts, making a difference in the lives of public-school students.

The Denton Black Film Festival has been a longtime supporter of Denton ISD, partnering with the district in a variety of capacities. Over the last two years, the Denton Black Film Festival has collaborated with Denton ISD and the Adopt-a-School program to host the annual art and essay contest where dozens of students are celebrated for their creations.

In addition, the Denton Black Film Festival has volunteered at Denton ISD's Back-to-School Fairs, where thousands of students are provided with school supplies, backpacks and more prior to the start of the school year.

For the unique way the Denton Black Film Festival has assisted our district, and for going above and beyond to assist our students and staff, we wish to thank the Denton Black Film Festival for their continued support.

*Harry and Linda Eaddy from the Denton Black Film Festival will be in attendance to receive this recognition.*