

# HISD PRESS RELEASE

## HISD crowns their 2023 Educators of the year celebrating “A Legacy of Excellence”

May 15, 2023 – The Houston Independent School District hosted their 2023 Educators of the Year at the Hilton Americas-Houston downtown with the theme “A Legacy of Excellence” for the 2022-2023 school year. HISD’s 2022 Elementary Teacher of the Year, Maria Soria and Secondary Teacher of the Year, Kaylin McNary served as this year’s hosts. Attendees were welcomed to a grand banquet space with a 1920s theme and décor accompanied by a 1920s big band for entertainment. The celebration honored principals, campus teachers, campus beginning teachers, teachers of the month, teachers of the year finalists, fan favorite educators, and the coveted educator of the year and was another huge success.

“I have the opportunity to be at schools and in classrooms often and I’ve seen first-hand the intentional work and supports to students provided by school leaders, teacher leaders, classroom teachers, and many caring campus professionals to meet the needs of all students” said Shawn Bird, HISD Chief Academic Officer. “You are amazing educators and deserve this time to celebrate your successes. For that, we are here to celebrate you tonight.”

Several presenters joined the stage to introduce the winners for this year’s award celebration including former Houston Youth Poet Laureate, Avalon Hogans. The list of categories and winners is listed below.

<b>Elementary Teacher of the Year</b> Melodie Musgrove, Walnut Bend Elementary	<b>Secondary Teacher of the Year</b> Sunita Moses, Energized for Excellence Academy
<b>Secondary Principal of the Year</b> Keoshya Dunn, Lawson Middle School	<b>Elementary Principal of the Year</b> Amanda Wingard, Neff Elementary School
<b>Instructional Coach Excellence Award</b> Tanitra Blackshear, Isaacs Elementary School Kevin Richard, HISD	<b>School Counselor of the Year</b> Donna Bolden, Meyerland Middle School Talitha Pinkney, Lovett Elementary School
<b>Library Program of the Year</b> Kaitlyn Carpenter, Bellaire High School	<b>Social Worker of the Year</b> Kolby Robinson, Woodson K-8 School
<b>ESL &amp; Bilingual Teacher of the Year</b> Adam Meza, Burbank Middle School Yessica Castillo, Cornelius Elementary School Pratibha Parasher, Coop Elementary School	<b>Beginning Teachers of the Year</b> Biridiana Cruz, Jefferson Elementary School Victoria Lawrence, Williams Middle School Lauren Chapmen, North Forest High School
<b>Nurse of the Year</b>	<b>Emily Scott Evans 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher Award</b>




Felicia Ivory, Fonwood Early Childhood Center

**Fan Favorite**

Adriana Sanchez, Moreno Elementary School  
Dantas Caroni, School of George Elementary  
Christy H. Weeks, Burbank Middle School  
Shamekia Pickens, Madison High School

Jamie Goins, Briscoe Elementary School  
Vasudha Punj, Park Place Elementary School

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 190,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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