

Honors & Awards for our ACT Interns & Teachers!

2022-23 & 2024 - 2025



News flash!! Congratulations to **MONICA HOUSDEN!** She was honored as the TEACHER OF THE YEAR for her campus in Denison ISD. Monica was a 5th grade science teacher at B. McDaniel Elementary.

Yet again, Monica is now teaching CTE at Denison High School and has been TEACHER OF THE YEAR again. Congratulations to an outstanding teacher!!



Cheers for **LIBBY ELLIOT!** Libby has been selected by campus staff members to receive the Rising Star Award for 1-2 year teachers. Libby teaches first grade at Spradley Elementary School in Prosper ISD.



Congratulations to **GABRIELA BROWDER!** She was selected as the Teacher of the Month for December at her campus. Gabriela is a Kindergarten teacher at Anita Scott Elementary in Royse City ISD.

2021-22



Here's a huge round of applause for **HEATHER STURGIS!** Heather teaches 2nd grade at North Creek Elementary School in Melissa ISD. She received the honor of being named the Teacher of the Year for the entire district. Way

to go, Heather! Melissa is one of the fastest-growing school districts in Colin County and is named in the Top 50 districts in Texas.



Let's extend our cheers of congratulations to Mr. Ray Borden, who enrolled in ACT Dallas in 2007. Mr. Borden will serve as Principal at Little Elm High School in Little Elm ISD this year. He previously served as principal at Seguin High School in Arlington ISD. Some of his key strengths include instructional leadership, culture and climate development, curriculum and instruction, and building leadership capacity. Borden was awarded Secondary Principal of the Year in 2019-2020 at Arlington ISD. He has been in public education since 2008 and transitioned to campus administration in 2012.

Congratulations to **HANNAH MELIN**, English teacher at Poteet High School in Mesquite ISD. Hannah has been honored as the New Teacher of the Year for 2021-22! What an amazing honor!

Let's keep cheering for first year teachers. **TAUREAN WILLIAMS**, also in Mesquite ISD was awarded the honor of New Teacher of the Year for 2021-22 at Van Guard High School. Taurean teaches Special Education. Hooray for this outstanding new teacher!



Let's all cheer for **BRIAN ALEXANDER**! Brian enrolled in ACT Dallas in 2010 and became a high school chemistry teacher at Wiley High School in **Wylie ISD**. He was soon selected to be the Science Department Chair, received his Master's Degree, and became an administrator as the District Director of Student Services. Brian returned to Wiley High School where he served as Asst. Principal for 7 years and is now the **PRINCIPAL** of Wiley High School. Congratulations, Brian on your outstanding success!

2020-21



Congratulations to **ISAIAH YOUNG**, Assistant Principal at Dan F. Long Middle School in **Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD**! Isaiah enrolled in ACT Dallas in 2007 and has had a long career in teaching, coaching and now campus administration. He served as Head Football Coach/ Athletic Coordinator and History teacher at R. L. Turner in CFB ISD. Prior to Turner, Isaiah taught special education and history, and coached at The Colony High School in Lewisville ISD. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas and has completed a Master's Degree at Dallas Baptist University. Here's to an outstanding educator/administrator!



Congratulations to **ADRIANN WINDOM!** Adriann has been honored as the **ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR** for her campus, Marvin Elementary in Waxahachie ISD. Adriann is a beloved kindergarten teacher. Her Field Supervisor Susan Pugh has a knack for developing rookies of the year. Let's give a big cheer for Adriann and for Ms. Pugh!



Felicitaciones! That means "Congratulations" in Spanish. We are extending our congratulations to 9th-10th grade Spanish teacher **MATTHEW MANELLI.** Matthew was named the "**Beginning Teacher of the Year**" for his campus, **Jasper High School, in Plano ISD.** Matthew is also the Assistant Speech and Debate Coach. Matthew is certified not only for LOTE Spanish, but also for Theatre. Excelente!

Congratulations to **Simmone Wright** and **RaNitta Bowman.** Both are new teachers at **Joseph J. Rhoads Elementary School in Dallas ISD,** which is an ACE school. And both have been named **Department Chair!** Simmone is a 4th grade Reading teacher. RaNitta is a 5th grade math teacher. What an honor for both of them to be recognized for their leadership and given this opportunity to lead their departments.

2019-20

Shana Pink enrolled in act♦dallas in 2010. She began her teaching career at Barnett Jr. High in Arlington ISD. During her first 5 years of teaching, she demonstrated her motivation for life-long learning and obtained her Master's Degree. With aspirations of working closely with students in all subject areas, this super star is now the **7th grade counselor & Lead Counselor at H. S. Stevens Middle School in Crowley ISD.** Shana has outstanding leadership skills and great passion for ensuring that all students have the opportunity to achieve their dreams. This super star says she truly loves what she does and is very grateful.

Crowley ISD honored Shana Pink with one of the top awards in the district and then recognized her at a board meeting. Click to see the video: <https://youtu.be/rBYafrObSMM>



Let's give a big shout out to **Matt Corcoran**! Matt enrolled in ACT Dallas in the summer of 2016 and was hired that fall as a math teacher at **Evans Middle School in McKinney ISD**. Now in his 4th year at Evans, Matt teaches 8th grade Pre-Algebra & Geometry and also coaches 7th grade Football and 8th grade Basketball. Matt is a super teacher and coach! He has been honored as the 2019-20 "**Teacher of the Year**" Way to go, Matt!



Ms. Kennetra Robertson enrolled in ACT Dallas in 2007 and has accumulated many honors and awards during her 13 years with **Plano ISD**. She moved to Texas with teaching experience in Louisiana and taught science at Plano's **Wilson Middle School** for 7 years. Then after obtaining her Master's Degree, she served as a campus administrator at **Otto Middle School** for 5 years. This year, Kennetra has been named the **principal of Robinson Middle School**. Congratulations to this distinguished career educator who is regularly engaged to motivate new teachers with the story of her path to administration!



Congratulations to **Mr. Jameile Choice**, Dallas native and DISD graduate, who is now the **Principal of A. Maceo Smith New Tech High School at B. F. Darrell in Dallas ISD**. Jameile enrolled in act♦dallas in 2011 and completed his first year of teaching at Polytechnic High School in Ft. Worth ISD. Since then, he has continued to demonstrate strong leadership skills and obtained his Principal Certificate in 2015. Principal Choice has a fervent desire to ensure that all students have access to a quality education that can change their lives and empower their communities.



LaKendrick Foster enrolled in act♦dallas in 2012. He successfully completed his internship year at Prime Prep Academy. With aspirations of becoming a campus instructional leader, LaKendrick obtained his Principal Certificate in 2019 and was selected to be the **Assistant Principal at Harry Truman Middle School in Grand Prairie ISD**. What a great success story!



Tiffany Taylor Wilkerson is an act♦dallas superstar! In May 2009, before receiving her Bachelor's Degree, she had already chosen her life's profession. She completed the summer Preparation Program Institute and was immediately hired at Daniel Intermediate School in **Duncanville ISD**. Tiffany has three certification areas: 4-8 Generalist, Business Education, and ESL. Her love of students led her to obtain her Counselor certificate in 2016. With outstanding leadership skills, Tiffany was named as the **College & Career Readiness Counselor for Duncanville ISD**, a position that she thoroughly enjoys. She additionally obtained her Principal certificate in 2017. Plus, Tiffany is also an instructor for act♦dallas Preparation Program Institutes.



2017-2018



Ms. Angellica Grayson of Summer Creek Middle school in Crowley ISD has been honored as the **Teacher of the Year** for her campus. Angellica is an outstanding P.E. teacher who was enrolled in ACT Dallas in 2010. Way to go, Angellica!

KENNETH WASHINGTON is an amazing Social Studies teacher at Village Tech in Cedar Hill. He was nominated by his students for the **CARENOW Teacher of the Month** and received the award on WFAA TV. Click on this link and watch the video!

<https://www.wfaa.com/video/entertainment/television/programs/good-morning-texas/carenow-teacher-of-the-month-kenneth-washington/287-8140515>

2016-17

Katlin Mozzocco received the high honor of being one of 3 beginning teachers in Texas to be selected “**2016-17 Intern of the Year**” by the Texas Alternative Certification Association. When Kate received this award and a \$1,000 check, she was teaching 2nd grade at Hart Elementary School in Lovejoy ISD. Since then Kate has married and is now Kate Duncan. She and her husband live in McKinney, but she still teaches in Lovejoy. She is now an outstanding 4th grade teacher at Puster Elementary School.



2015-16

Victoria Wimmer was one of 3 state winners named by the Texas Alternative Certification Association as “**Intern of the Year**” for 2014-15. Victoria teaches English I and English II Pre-AP at Pantego Christian Academy in Dallas. Not only is Victoria an amazing teacher, but she is also a talented leader who was also chosen to be the Freshman Class Sponsor.



MARCUS SHAVERS, 2009 ACT Dallas intern, is the head football coach and Campus Athletic Coordinator at McKinney High School in McKinney ISD. Talk about a champ! Marcus is a great educator and coach, totally dedicated to his students and players. Way to go, Marcus.

2013-14

Ms. Shannon Thornton, 5th grade math teacher at Adele Turner Elementary School in Dallas ISD has been honored as **"Teacher of the Year."** Shannon obtained teacher certification through ACT Dallas in 2011 and was honored then as **"Intern of the Year"** by the Texas Alternative Certification Association. That award was only given to 3 beginning teachers in the entire state. Shannon is a very outstanding teacher, who is now teaching at the elementary school that she attended. Congratulations! Shannon is shown below with her ACT Dallas Field Supervisor, Susan Pugh, who attended the award ceremony.



2018

RILEY DODGE has been named the head coach for Southlake Carroll High School's powerhouse football team. Riley was a former American football player and a 2015 ACT Dallas intern. He follows in his father's footsteps as a winning coach and is now on his own path for super stardom!



SABRINA HODGE, 2008 intern, began teaching at Florence Middle School in Dallas ISD. She was honored as the **Teacher of the Year** for her campus in 2009-10. Then she was promoted to Instructional Coach and has now been Assistant Principal for the past 3 years.



MATTHEW BADO is the **Teacher of the Year** for Caldwell Elementary School in McKinney ISD. Matthew teaches first grade and has been at Caldwell for 3 years.



DARLA GRAY is **Teacher of the Year** at Piedmont Global Academy in Dallas ISD. Darla is a 7th grade Texas History teacher, Team 4 Lead teacher, Academic Decathlon Coach, and the 7th grade Activities Coordinator. .



Congratulations to **ALICIA RODRIGUEZ!** Alicia has been honored as the **Teacher of the Month** at Good Elementary School in Irving ISD. Alicia's 4th grade students are cheering for her. Let's all cheer for Alicia!



DARRYL GENTRY, 2011 Intern, is now the **Assistant Principal at Meadowbrook Middle School** in Ft. Worth ISD. Mr. Gentry is a military veteran who completed his M.Ed. degree in Education at TCU.