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Citizen

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Space Center teacher is "Teacher of the Year"

By DANA DURBIN
Citizen Staff

Space Center Intermediate teacher Vickie Smith was chosen as teacher of the year by the Rotary Club last week.

Smith is a sixth grade English teacher at Space Center.

She has been at the school since it opened two years ago and before that taught at Seabrook Intermediate.

Smith was one of six nominees for Teacher of the Year award.

The other nominees were Janet Barksdale, Bertha Campbell, Gwendolyn Cash, Janine Morrell and Sherry Roach.

Smith was announced as the winner at a Rotary Club luncheon last week.

She said her philosophy to-

ward teaching is that she has something to sell.

"Sometimes it's almost like I'm an actress," Smith said. "I've got to sell English to the students whether it's a noun or an adjective."

A committee of Rotary members selected the six nominees, who all received CCISD Certificates for Excellence in Education Awards.

Each nominee answered three essay questions and their principal submitted a letter of recommendation.

Smith said her principal, Jim Stephens, wrote a great recommendation.

Smith received a plaque for herself and her name will also be put on a permanent plaque at the Education Center.

Another plaque will also be displayed at Space Center Intermediate.

In addition, Smith received \$1,000.

"I wanted to say I'm going to Disney World, but I'm really not," Smith said.



SMITH



Morell



Smith



Cash



Campbell



Roach



Barksdale

Space Center Rotary Club to honor CCISD teachers

Six finalists have been selected in the Rotary Club of Space Center's annual teacher of the year competition.

The six Clear Creek Independent School District teachers, winners of Certificates of Excellence in Education, were chosen from 43 nominations representing 18 schools from throughout the district.

From among the six certificate recipients, the Teacher of the Year will be selected and honored at a special Rotary luncheon May 9 at the Nassau Bay Hilton.

The six finalists are Janet Barksdale of Space Center Intermediate, Bertha Campbell of John F. Ward Elementary, Gwendolyn

Cash of Clear Creek High School, Janine M. Morrell of Clear View High School, Sherry A. Roach with the district elementary level Gifted and Talented Program and Vickie M. Smith of Space Center Intermediate.

A committee of eight members of Space Center Rotary Club picked the certificate recipients. Teachers were nominated by their peers, and the committee invited a limited number of nominees to submit applications for the awards. Applications included three essay questions related to the teacher's educational activities and philosophy. Each teacher's principal submitted a letter of recommendation of the teacher's

behalf.

The teacher of the year will receive a Rotary Excellence in Education Award of \$1,000 in cash, as well as an honorary Rotary membership, a personal plaque and a plaque for display in her school. The winning teacher's name will also be added to a permanent plaque on display at the CCISD administrative offices.

According to project chairman Bill Austin, "Space Center Rotary established the awards program to demonstrate our support for education and our appreciation for teachers. Teachers often don't receive the credit or the compensation they deserve for playing a crucial role in the lives and future of our children."



JANET BARKSDALE



BERTHA CAMPBELL



GWENDOLYN CASH



JANINE MORRELL

Space Center Rotary picks nominees for Teacher of the Year

The Space Center Rotary Club has announced their selections to receive the CCISD Certificates for Excellence in Education Awards.

Six teachers were selected from 43 nominations representing 18 schools in the district.

From the six nominees, the Teacher of the Year will be selected and announced at a special Rotary luncheon at noon on May 9 at the Nassau Bay Hilton.

The six teachers are Janet Barksdale, of Space Center Intermediate, Bertha Campbell of Ward Elementary, Gwendolyn Cash of Clear Creek High School, Janine Morrell of Clear View High School, Sherry Roach with

the district elementary level Gifted and Talented Program, and Vickie Smith of Space Center Intermediate.

A committee of eight members of the Space Center Rotary Club chose the certificate recipients. Teachers were nominated by their peers and the committee invited a limited number of nominees to submit applications for the Teacher of the Year Award.

Applications included three essay questions related to the teacher's educational activities and philosophy. Each teacher's principal submitted a letter of recommendation on the teacher's behalf.

The Teacher of the Year will receive a Rotary Excellence in



SHERRY ROACH

Education Award of \$1,000, as well as an honorary Rotary membership, a personal plaque and a plaque for display in her school. The teacher's name will also be added to a permanent plaque on display at the CCISD administrative offices.

Space Center Rotary Club is



VICKIE SMITH

an organization of approximately 175 business leaders from throughout the Clear Lake area. It is affiliated with Rotary International whose motto is "Service above Self." Space Center Rotary has contributed more than \$1 million to local charitable causes over the past 25 years.

CCISD honors special teachers

Social studies, English teacher gets top honors

Vickie Smith, a social studies and English teacher at Space Center Intermediate School, was named Teacher of the Year by the Space Center Rotary Club at its special annual luncheon this week.

She received \$1,000 in cash, an honorary Rotatory membership, a personal plaque and a plaque for display in her school. In addition, her name also was added to the permanent plaque on display at the Clear Creek Independent School District administrative offices.

Space Center Rotary Club presented six CCISD teachers with Certificates for Excellence in Education Awards.

The six teachers were selected from 43 nominations representing 18 schools from throughout the district.

"Space Center Rotary established the awards to demonstrate our support for education and our appreciation for teachers," project chairman Bill Austin said. "Teachers don't often receive the credit or the compensation they deserve for playing a crucial role in the lives and future of our children."



Smith

See TEACHERS on Page 4.

Teachers

Continued from Page 1.

The awards program marks the fourth consecutive year Space Center Rotary has honored and recognized outstanding CCISD teachers. From among the six certificate recipients, the Teacher of the Year was selected and announced at a special Rotary luncheon at noon on May 9 at the Nassau Bay Hilton Hotel.

The six recipients of Certificates for Excellence in Education Awards included Janet Barksdale of Space Center Intermediate, Bertha "Bert" Campbell of John F. Ward Elementary, Gwendolyn Cash of Clear Creek High School, Janine M. Morrell of Clear View High School, Sherry A. Roach with the district elementary level gifted and talented program, and Smith.

A committee of eight members of Space Center Rotary Club chose the certificate recipients. Teachers were nominated by their peers, and the committee invited a limited number of nominees to submit applications for the awards. Applications included three essay questions related to the teachers' educational activities and philosophy.

Space Center Rotary Club is an organization of about 175 business leaders from throughout the Clear Lake area.

Here are the six winners:

■ Janet Barksdale — Speech and drama teacher for students in grades six, seven and eight at Space Center Intermediate School.

She is the department head while also directing several play productions a year, sponsoring the DramaACTics Club as well as the annual Speech and Drama Festival. She provides her students, many of who are "at-risk," a new non-threatening arena in which they can succeed. Through her courses, she builds self-esteem in students who badly need to feel good about themselves.



Barksdale

"Janet believes that you must work to make opportunities for student success," Principal Jim Stephens said. "She is one of those teachers that forms the backbone and nerve center of a school."

She holds a master's degree in humanities/theater.

■ Bertha "Bert" Campbell is a speech and language pathologist for preschool through fifth grades at John F. Ward Elementary School. She evaluates, diagnoses and develops individual educational plans

front

nd teaches students diagnosed with moderate to severe language learning and/or speech disorders.

"I measure my success by the progress that each student makes toward accomplishing his or her goals and objectives," she said. "Her



Cash

knowledge and expertise are such that she serves as the lead teacher for all our speech/language teachers in Clear Creek ISD," said Principal Floy Weed.

She was appointed by Texas Gov. Ann Richards to the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education to address issues and provide input to the governor and the Texas Education Agency on concerns that affect special education. She holds a masters degree and extensive post-graduate studies. Among numerous certifications and awards, she received the 1992 Outstanding Service Award from the Texas Speech, Language and Hearing Association. She has conducted training through several workshops and seminars and is extremely active in the community.

Gwendolyn Cash - A U.S. history teacher for students in grades nine through 10 at Clear Creek High School.

She encourages her students to

go beyond the "classroom teaming" arena, assigning projects that require outside research skills, creativity and originality.

Principal Ralph Parr said, "Gwendolyn is the kind of teacher every other teacher wishes to work with and the kind of teacher every student is fortunate to have once or twice during his or her schooling; the one that makes a difference."

As a means of self-assessment, her students develop individual class portfolios. Her course objectives enable students to see the class goals of each unit and how they are interrelated to prior and future learning. She holds a master's degree in education, has sponsored varsity cheerleaders for 10 years, is an active volunteer in youth sports and Cub Scouts and has numerous professional affiliations. She has undertaken extensive professional training programs and was a University of Texas at Austin Teaching in Excellence nominee.

Janine M. Morrell - Teaches World History and American History to students in grades nine through 12 at Clear View High School.

She cites her most important

commitment to her community is her job which for the past three years has been teaching troubled teens, dysfunctional as a result of family, societal, drug, or criminal problems that are impacting their academic performance. She believes that success is not in grades or memorization of facts, but in the ability to think, conceptualize and project critical thinking.

Said Principal Sue Kevan, "Janine makes history and geography real for her students. Her classroom is a place where students, who a year ago did not care who the president of United States was can now discuss and debate in detail the national deficit and the proposals for its reduction." She stayed current in her subjects with continuous graduate studies and is active in numerous educational organizations. She was selected to represent her school and CCISD at the UHCL Managers Roundtable site visit. She is co-head of the student advisory board, which allows student input concerning school programs.



Roach

Sherry A. Roach - A teacher in the district's elementary gifted talented program, she teaches students in grades K through 5. Her ability to challenge her students to enrich their talents is a part of her success. Her students have recognized her as having "made a difference" in their lives. She has assisted the school in its goal of incorporating multi-disciplinary creative arts throughout all grade levels by including visual and performing arts into her lesson plans.

"She is masterful in working with parents and keeping them completely informed regarding student progress," said Principal Greg Marshall. "Her genuine concern for student education promotes academic success in all students."

She holds a masters degree in psychology, has instructed in teaching-related workshops and seminars, has received numerous academic awards and is active

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several professional and community organizations. She received the Clear Creek Area PTA Service Award in recognition of Distinguished Service Given to Children and Youth.

■ Vickie M. Smith – Teaches English and social studies to students in grades six through 12 at Space Center Intermediate School.

Making literature and learning come alive, she takes her students on an adventurous ride through the land of prepositions, nouns and adverbs. The experience is both educational and fun for her students.

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"She has the gift of helping individuals to look inside for solutions to their own problems," Principal Jim Stephens said. "She serves as a mentor teacher for first-year teachers helping them to become the best they can be. She has also served as student council sponsor for the past 10 years. She holds a master's degree in education and is active in the community through church, PTA programs, youth sports programs, and charitable and service organizations. She received the first-ever Space Center Intermediate Faculty Merit Award, voted on by faculty and staff.

**SMITH NAMED 'TEACHER
OF YEAR' BY ROTARIANS**

A \$1,000 cash award for being named Space Center Rotary Club's "Teacher of the Year" went to Vickie Smith, a social studies and English teacher at Space Center Intermediate School.

Space Center Rotary presented six Clear Creek Independent School District teachers with Certificates for Excellence in Education.

The six recipients of Certificates for Excellence in Education Awards included Janet Barksdale of Space Center Intermediate, Bertha (Bert) Campbell of John F. Ward Elementary, Gwendolyn Cash of Clear Creek High School, Janine M. Morell of Clear View High School, Sherry A. Roach with the district elementary level gifted and talented program, and Smith.