

## Teachers of the Year honored



Clear Creek ISD's Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year Karen Hearn, left, and Erika Bondy receive congratulations from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Smith at the Rotary luncheon for the honorees at South Shore Harbour Resort.

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Karen Hearn from Landolt Elementary has been named Clear Creek ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year and Erika Bondy of Creekside Intermediate the Secondary Teacher of the Year. Announcement of the honor was made last week when the Rotary Clubs of the Bay Area and CCISD hosted a luncheon to honor all the Teachers of the Year finalists at South Shore Harbour Resort.

The other four finalists for Teacher of the Year were Goforth Elementary's Maria Scardasis Wyatt, Ward Elementary's Kristina Digman, Clear Brook High School's Pat Jones, and the Clear View Education Center's Michael Houston.

Each of them received a \$500 cash award from the League City, Seabrook and Space Center Rotary Clubs. The two winning teachers got an additional \$1,000.

The search for the CCISD Teachers of the Year began when peers at each campus nominated one teacher to represent their school with the nominees honored at a recent school board meeting.

### 42 NOMINEES

A district level committee of administrators then reviewed the pool of 42 candidates and narrowed it down to six finalists. "I can assure you it was no easy task as each of these teachers represent the very best of Clear Creek ISD," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Greg Smith.

Hearn, a four-year teacher, said she believes, "The key to locking into a child is to allow them to feel success with a subject. The success empowers them to take risks and achieve as a learner." The Landolt teacher is also a candidate for National Board Certification and is the team leader for the First Grade Team at her school.

### CONNECTIONS IMPORTANT

Bondy, who has been teaching seven years, said she believes, "The connections teachers make are directly related to success in the classroom. I am rewarded when students feel comfortable asking me for help and sharing ideas, struggles and successes." The Creekside teacher received the Calvin Creek Award in 2007 for outstanding work with Special Education students in CCISD. She also received four Excellence in Education Awards when she was a math teacher at Space Center Intermediate. Space Center Rotary President Jon McKinnie, Seabrook Rotary President Nick Geeslin and League City Rotary President Birda Gaskin also took part in the presentation.