



Melinda B. Mills
Excellence Award

Melinda B. Mills - teaches seventh grade Advanced Life Science at Space Center Intermediate School. Melinda says her desire is to "prepare her students to become responsible adult citizens by fostering a love of learning while improving a student's ability to search for solutions." For the past eight years Melinda has served as a member of the Scientific review Committee for the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston. She has received many awards for meritorious teaching including being named Outstanding Science Teacher for 1997 by the Texas Academy of Science. Melinda has just been announced as a winner of the prestigious Presidential Award of Excellence. Jim Stephens Principal states "Melinda's creativity and teaching ability are outstanding, but her greatest attribute is that she cares for her students." Melinda has BS and MS degrees from Austin Peay State University with additional coursework at the University of London and the University of Houston.



Richard Williams
Excellence Award

Richard Williams - teaches art at Clear Lake High School. Richard has over twenty years experience as an art educator and currently teaches sculpture, Advanced Placement Art and first year art classes. Richard believes "each student is God's masterpiece and he is His instrument in helping the students meet their successes." Richard is truly a gifted artist and educator with over thirty various awards and art grants. Mary Kregg of the local The Citizen Paper writes "Visualizing faith seems to be the most recurrent theme of Richard Williams' works. As a generalist and teacher who appears to love inspiring his students to stretch to their creative limits." Richard holds both BS and MFA degrees from the University of Houston and has studied in Frankfurt, Germany and Parsons University in New York. In addition to being a gifted teacher Richard is known for his art work with over 140 art exhibits world wide.



Laura Phillips Mackay
Excellence Award

Laura Phillips Mackay - teaches fourth grade Reading, Language and Science at Walter Hall Elementary School. Throughout her teaching career Laura has taken the approach that "many children may come into her classroom tarnished and bent and it is her job to polish them into the bright stars of tomorrow. This buffing and polishing can only be achieved by meeting the individual needs of each student." Laura excels in every aspect of her role as a professional educator. She is involved in over fifteen programs, clubs and activities at Walter Hall. Laura has been awarded two grants to advance the integration of teaching science with literature. Mrs. Mackay has been chosen to travel to the University of California Berkeley as a member of Texas's exclusive GEMS team made up of only ten of Texas's top educators. Laura earned her BA degree from Southwestern University and her MS degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is involved locally with the Bay Area Big Brother/Big Sister program.



Rebecca Hoffman
Excellence Award

Rebecca Hoffman - teaches 11th and 12th grade Government and Economics at Clear View High. Rebecca is one of the original faculty who opened Clear View High in the fall of 1989. Clear View is a school of choice for students who are at risk of dropping out of high school for various reasons. Teaching is truly Rebecca's ministry. Rebecca relies on her own life's experiences to help her teach the "whole child- academically, socially, and personally." She is very active within Clear View as well as serving on various school district committees. Rebecca has written and received three Chapter 2 Grants and co-authored the award winning proposal for the Texas Attorney General Criminal Justice Award: Innovative Programs in Schools. Her education includes a BS degree in History and Government from the University of Texas at Austin and a MS degree in Library Science from Louisiana State University. Outside of the classroom Rebecca serves as Harris County Precinct 415 Chairman, founding member of Sam Houston Chapter of the DAR and a founding member of the Bay Area Museum Guild.



Paula Shock
Excellence Award

Paula Shock - teaches Mathematics (Algebra I) at Space Center Intermediate School. With twenty five years of teaching experience Paula still gets excited when she is able to pass along enthusiasm for mathematics to her students. She feels this passion instills a curiosity for learning not only academic skills but also "life" skills. Paula's care and concern for students has caused her to be involved in the sponsorship of different clubs and organizations within her school. When Space Center opened five years ago Paula was the one person responsible for the organization of the National Junior Honor Society. Paula is highly regarded for her teaching ability and for her knowledge of math curriculum. Paula has been named to Who's Who in American Education, Outstanding Young Women of America and has been nominated several times for the Presidential Award of Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Paula holds a BA degree in education and a MA in mathematics from Sam Houston State University. Paula is active outside of the classroom with various church functions, the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni group and is a volunteer for Space Center Houston and the Houston Zoological Gardens.