



TEXAS CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

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TCTA gives Administrator of the Year award to Pampa ISD director

AUSTIN – Richard A. Steele, director of the Pampa Learning Center, has been named the 2008-09 Administrator of the Year in the middle/secondary school category by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.

TCTA presents administrator awards annually to honor exemplary education leaders. Founded in 1927, TCTA is an association for Texas teaching professionals and serves 50,000 members across the state.

Steele has been in public education with the Pampa Independent School District for more than 30 years, with the last 13 years as director of the Center. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from West Texas A&M University, earning counselor and special education counselor certifications.

He began his teaching career in 1969 as an elementary and middle school teacher, but soon moved into special education counseling where he worked for many years. He joined the counseling staff of the Pampa Learning Center in 1992 and was named director in 1995. Steele also serves as the disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) director.

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(TCTA news release, continued)

Steele was selected for the TCTA Administrator of the Year award in the middle/secondary school category based on a nomination submitted by the Pampa CTA, a local affiliate of the statewide TCTA.

Nominees are evaluated according to their leadership skills; relationship with teachers; commitment to site-based decision making; support of teacher participation in professional activities; and interaction with community leaders and district parents. The Administrator of the Year award has been presented since 1981.

The Pampa CTA nomination commended Steele for supporting a staff full of teachers who requested to be on his campus. “Because of his creativity, intelligence and sensitivity, Mr. Steele is able to bring out the very best in each staff member. We share his passion in believing every student can learn and should be given every opportunity to succeed in life,” the nominating CTA added.

In choosing Steele, one judge noted, “This administrator has found a way to include teachers, parents and students in a circle of mutual respect and goals.”

TCTA will honor award winners in February in Austin, during the association's annual convention. Educators from across the state will participate in professional development seminars, elect TCTA leaders for statewide and district positions, review and vote on the association’s 2009 legislative program and adopt policy positions on many current education issues.