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Region 8 TAGT Award Winners Announced

The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) awards outstanding Texans each year for committing to the benefit of all gifted children, contributing time and effort in support of this commitment, and encouraging shared leadership and global participation in its achievement.

Renee Elmore, Region 8 Director of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented and Justiss Elementary Principal made award presentations at a recent Board of Trustees meeting.



Photographed from left are TAGT awardees Noemi Plata, Michelle Giles, Karen Draeger and Marsha Draeger.

Noemi Plata, a 23-year veteran of Paris ISD and Justiss Elementary and teacher of the gifted and talented for 11 years, received the Outstanding Regional Teacher of the Gifted Award. The award is given for recognition of outstanding service, contribution, and commitment to gifted education. The Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to professional growth, serving needs of gifted students in both cognitive and affective domains, and an overall commitment in developing a personal philosophy of education for the gifted.

Michelle Giles won the TAGT Regional Rising Star Award. Giles has taught at Justiss Elementary for 12 years and this is her second year in the gifted classroom. The award is presented to a teacher from each region in their first three years in gifted education who has shown eagerness for learning gifted strategies, is committed to their application, and is dedicated to the support of gifted students.

Karen Draeger, Justiss Elementary Instructional Aid, received the Regional Advocate of the Gifted Award which is presented to an individual in recognition for outstanding service, contribution, and commitment to gifted education.

Marsha Draeger, the mother of a gifted son who attends Paris High School, was named the Outstanding Parent of the Gifted. The award recognizes her long-term involvement as an advocate for gifted children in the Paris Independent School District (PISD).