

# EANESPIRATION AWARDS

Congratulations to our EANESpiration winners from Westlake High School!

## Educational Impact Award

### Jeff Joseph

As a colleague, mentor and friend, Jeff Joseph has been invaluable to the Special Education staff. He truly gets the team part of a collaborative unit and is always easy to approach as teachers talk and problem solve. Jeff is an exceptional teacher with extraordinary patience and maintains high standards for students personally and academically. He makes what looks to be impossible days logical, pragmatic and efficient. He has raised the bar in his classes. And while we are all busier these days, Jeff manages multiple preps, increased Physics demands, Special Education duties, internship responsibilities and graduate school. His nomination reads, "Jeff's tremendous and generous efforts with a challenging group of students and heavy workload are inspirational and we are so happy to have his support."

## Heroes Award

### Steve Ramsey

Steve has advocated for students through his support of epicosity and through his work in identifying students in need of special assistance. He works closely with our intervention specialist, to identify and provide services for our at-risk students. Steve has also been instrumental in helping to administer the Student Assistance Fund for those students in need of financial help.

Steve demonstrates leadership in his interactions with teachers. In his role as supervisor and mentor he meets frequently with four Westlake High School teachers who are working on their administrative certificates through Lamar University. Steve has supported the Professional Learning Community at Westlake High School by working to build a master schedule that has provided time for shared planning and discussion, and he has been open to suggestions for creating a schedule for next year that will continue

to allow collaboration to take place. His nomination reads, "With Steve, teachers can always count on an open door, a sympathetic ear, and sound advice. He is an inspiration."

## Rita Rico

Rita Rico stepped in seamlessly as Head Custodian and has demonstrated that she can be a leader and a positive role model. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty and has done a wonderful job in her new role. Her nomination reads, "It's a pleasure to have someone on my staff that I can depend on in a crucial situation and do such a quality job. She is first in getting the job done!"

## Innovation Award

### Laura Ringwood

Laura Ringwood has demonstrated exceptional leadership since she assumed the Math Chair position this year. This year the Math department implemented matrices to help determine the most appropriate math level for students so as not to cause them to be misplaced in honors level classes. Laura facilitated a meeting between math teachers and counselors to discuss the new policies and encouraged everyone to share ideas and concerns... great collaboration! Laura always takes the time to respond to questions regarding students in unique math situations and provides clear and thoughtful direction. Her nomination reads, "My son had Laura as a teacher last year and described her as the best math teacher he's ever had – an amazing compliment from a kid who does not give compliments readily!"

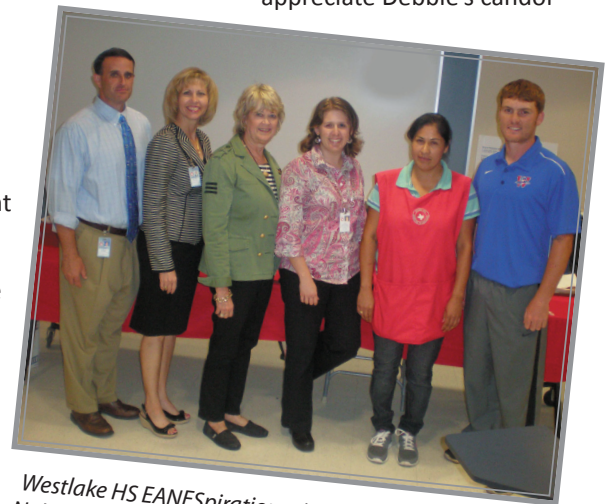
## Good Samaritan Award

### Debbie Hicks

Debbie Hicks has been an integral member of the counseling team at Westlake HS since 2003. She is passionate about guiding her students and is diligent and

conscientious, often working long hours to finish recommendation letters. Debbie treats each child as if they were part of her family and strives to help her students to match with schools that will ensure their continued success.

Debbie coordinates the Credit by Exam/ Correspondence Exam Program which serves some of our most talented students to our most at-risk. She treats all students with respect, regardless of the competitive placement in the class and gives up many of her Saturday mornings to proctor these exams. Her fellow counselors write, "As a team member, we appreciate Debbie's candor



Westlake HS EANESpiration winners: Steve Ramsey, Dr. Nola Wellman, Debbie Hicks, Laura Ringwood, Rita Rico and Jeff Joseph.

and inquisitiveness and how she is always keeping student interests at heart. She will be sincerely missed by all of us who have worked with her."

Presented by:



Austin, Tx.