

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Graduates past and future lauded at banquet

Comal ISD graduates past and future, nearly 50 of them, were lauded on Tuesday at the annual Jan Heckendorn Academic Recognition Banquet sponsored by the Comal Education Foundation.

Outstanding graduates Jennifer Saunders, Canyon High School Class of 1971, and Jillian Hurst Tappan, Smithson Valley High School Class of 2000, were honored with plaques and appreciation as Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent of Comal ISD introduced them.

Saunders' lifelong service to Comal County includes two decades as Court Clerk and three years as Justice of the Peace. Tappan's career is helping underserved youth in Central Texas. Though she was unable to attend the banquet, her mother, Cindy Hurst, a counselor in Comal ISD, accepted the award on Tappan's behalf.

Amid table centerpieces of gladiolas—Jan Heckendorn's favorite flower—45 seniors at Canyon High School, Canyon Lake High School and Smithson Valley High Schools, their parents and the one teacher who made the greatest impact in their lives were honored. As each "couple" of student and teacher approached the stage, Rusty Brockman, director of economic development for the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce and former principal of Canyon Middle School, read an excerpt from the

student's essay about the teacher's influence. Many of the students, in their essays, thanked the teachers for broadening their scopes outside the classroom.

Portraits of each of the students and his/her special teacher, provided by Sam Roberts Photography of Bulverde, were gifts to the students and teachers. Wells Fargo was Presenting Sponsor of the event.

The banquet is named after Mrs. Heckendorn, who was instrumental in the founding and creation of the Comal Education Foundation. She was a driving force behind the Foundation's long-standing academic recognition banquet.

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