

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD receives many awards at TSPRA state convention**

Comal ISD received multiple awards for excellence in school communications at the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) annual state conference in Arlington.

Comal ISD received two Best of Category honors, 14 Gold Star Awards and two Silver Star Awards.

The awards were announced at the TSPRA Star Awards Celebration on Feb. 24 at the Arlington Sheraton.

Each year, TSPRA recognizes communicators in school districts, education foundations, education associations and organizations for their outstanding work in both print and electronic media. This year, more than 1,000 entries were received. The top entries in several different categories received awards.

For the third straight year, Jason Gordon, Comal ISD communications specialist, received at least one Best of Category award.

This year, Gordon received two Best of Category awards, both for his story, "Taking the graduation road less traveled," about Smithson Valley High student Rosalina Gomez, who came to the United States from the Mexican farming community of Guanajuato in 2006. She didn't know a word of English, but with the guidance of SVHS English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Mona Daniels and many other teachers on campus, Gomez graduated in 2010 and is currently a student at San Antonio College pursuing a career as a bilingual teacher.

Gordon also won 14 other Gold Star Awards for entries in four different writing and photography categories.

Gordon's Gold Star Awards included: "Great Scott! Beloved teacher returns from Iraq," which chronicled SVHS teacher and U.S. Army Reserves

member Scott Stoores' second tour of Iraq; "Students take Tony Parker around the world," which told the tale of Goodwin Frazier Elementary teacher Celia Barragan's fifth-grade class winning a contest that ultimately won them a trip to Spurs point guard Tony Parker's house; "Bowling program makes stars out of Comal ISD students," the emotional story of Comal ISD's sports program for students with special needs; and "Ice Blocks," a photo of members of Canyon High's swim team diving into the CHS pool on a 40-degree morning.

TSPRA, based in Austin, is a professional organization whose members are dedicated to improving public education in Texas by promoting effective public relations practices, providing professional development for its members, and improving communication between Texans and their public schools.

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