

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Barragán, Monzingo **Comal ISD's Teachers of the Year**

One Comal ISD teacher who beat the odds to attend college and another who waited until after her own children were grown have been named Comal ISD's Teachers of the Year.

Celia Barragán, a fifth-grade bilingual education teacher at Goodwin Frazier Elementary, and Sharon Monzingo, an English teacher at Canyon Lake High, were surprised with the announcement on May 15.

Both teachers advance as the Comal ISD representatives to the Regional Teacher of the Year competition sponsored by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). If either or both are chosen at the regional level they automatically advance to the State Teacher of the Year program.

Barragán was selected from a group of 10 elementary campus teachers of the year. She has taught for 31 years, and has been her campus teacher of the year five different times.

As a child, Barragan's goal was to be the first to finish high school in her extended family. By the age of 22 she had earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Southwest Texas State University and was teaching. Now, 31 years later, after many well-deserved honors and awards, "teaching finds me energized, excited and full of high expectations. I give the students my best with lots of love, straight from the heart," Barragán said. This year alone, she was selected as the district's KENS5 ExCEL Teacher of the Year and its Trinity Prize of Excellence in Teaching nominee.

Monzingo was selected from a group of seven secondary campus teachers of the year. Her call to teaching came a little later in life, after being a mom first and getting her two children ready for school, and then working with the local health department in Memphis, Texas.

When her family moved to Pflugerville, she was able to complete her

college degree at St. Edward's University, while working full-time, and began teaching high school English. She believes that no other profession impacts our future more profoundly than teaching. "What we say and do as teachers can be the difference in how any given child will view the world around him and can directly effect how he chooses to respond to that world," Monzingo said. "I honestly care about students as human beings first, then I can share my love of English, literature, learning, and life with them with the greatest amount of effectiveness. It all begins there."

The remaining Campus Teachers of the Year in the Comal ISD are:

ELEMENTARY

Mindy Dickey, Bill Brown ES
Jan Sitta, Comal ES
Dustie Lumpkin, Freiheit ES
Stacy Wilkie, Hoffmann Lane ES
Debbie Jackson, Rahe Bulverde ES
Tamera King, Rebecca Creek ES
Eric Clark, Arlon Seay IS
Melissa Bartek, Specht ES
Cec Pearson, Startzville ES

SECONDARY

Renee Martinez, Canyon HS
Vanessa Brown, Canyon MS
Richard Stelter, Church Hill MS
John Barthels, Spring Branch MS
Lisa Daigle, Smithson Valley HS
Mary Hoffman, Smithson Valley MS

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