

BISD Press Conference – (1:00 pm)

Tuesday, January 24th 2012

- Brownwood ISD's Director of Special Education, Alice Cox, awarded the 2011 TCASE Special Education Director of the Year for the state of Texas.
- TCASE, The Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education, is a professional society comprised of nearly 1,200 members who administer and support special education programs throughout the state of Texas.
- Alice Cox was also recognized as the Special Education Director of the Year at the district level for Region 15 in November of 2011.
- Alice was selected out of the three nominees that included special education directors from region 4, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (Jane Flynn) and Region 20, Floresville ISD (Paige Fuller).
- This award recognizes a special education director who demonstrates outstanding leadership in providing services to students with disabilities and whose work reflects the highest professional and ethical standards.
- Alice is active in:
 - **TCASE**
 - **CESD** (Council for Educators for Students with Disabilities)
 - **Serves as Co-Chairperson for the Brown County Consortium**, a group composed of school district members, Child Placing Agencies, and the Department of Family Protective Services.
- Alice has organized or facilitated special needs programs such as:
 - **Bowling for Life Skills Students**
 - **Summer camp for students with auditory impairments**
 - **Summer Reading and Math Rodeo**
- Alice accepted her award at the TCASE Great Ideas Convention in Austin, TX on January, 17th.
- Dr. Reece Blincoe, Superintendent for Brownwood ISD and Leisa Land, Assistant Superintendent attended the presentation of the award.

Alice Cox
Director of Special Education
Brownwood ISD

1.) How long have you worked in Special Education?

“Interestingly enough for me, this year makes 19 in special education and 19 in general ed. My teaching experience includes elementary, middle and high school.”

2.) When and how did you find out about being awarded the Special Education Director of the Year for the State?

“I knew that my nomination had been submitted to the state organization but did not know I was the recipient until Friday afternoon, January 6th, when I received a call from Margaret Leifeste, ESC XV in San Angelo. I was driving and had to pull over for safety's sake! Of course, I had to immediately call my husband and start texting the news to others. Unbelievably exciting!”

3.) What do you believe is the most important quality a Special Education Director should possess?

“In addition to knowledge of special education, common sense is essential along with a dose of practicality on what will work best for kids.”

4.) What do you consider the greatest challenge in education/special education?

“The greatest challenge is that needs are constantly changing in districts and that requires flexibility on everyone's part in order to meet the needs of students. Also, we constantly need to work to increase tolerance and understanding that special education is to not only equip students with disabilities for life but also to teach students in general ed. tolerance for working with others.”

5.) What are the biggest changes you have seen in special education?

“The biggest changes come with expectations. In the past, sometimes students placed in special education had low expectations. Today, the bar has certainly been raised and special ed. students are expected to achieve most of what their gen. ed. counter parts do. For example, all students are tested on the state assessments (STAAR tests) and students spend more time in mainstream education rather than the self-contained classes of the past.”