



## Announcing the College of Education 2023 Distinguished Educator of the Year Honorees



### Dr. Ann H. Lê

Dr. Ann Lê believes in reducing barriers and increasing access for students with disabilities; both academically and behaviorally. Dr. Lê earned a Doctor of Educational Leadership (2021), Master of Education (2015), and both her Educational Diagnostician Certification and Principal Certification from Sam Houston State University.

As the Tomball ISD administrator for Special Education and Behavior/Discipline Dr. Lê brings a unique approach to supporting students, families, and staff members. Her knowledge and expertise in the identification and implications of disabilities has led her to create adaptation to the restorative practices for students with disabilities and those students who

have language barriers, and cultural differences.

### Ms. Heidi Sebren

Heidi Sebren began her career in Education 12 years ago with the goal of making an impact on student learning outcomes to prepare students for the world they would enter after secondary school. As an administrator, Sebren has paved the way to reimagine learning for students who receive special education services by facilitating collaboration between educators in the interest of the student.



Sebren earned her Master's of Curriculum Instruction from Sam Houston State University in 2015 and a certification in Educational Leadership in 2017. Heidi Sebren has been described by colleagues as; creative, positive, and a fiercely dedicated difference maker.



### Dr. Bill Chapman

Dr. Bill Chapman continues to fulfill the College of Education's mission to make a difference in the lives of students. Dr. Chapman earned both his Master's in Educational Administration (2003) and Doctor of Educational Administration (2009) from Sam Houston State University. During his career, Dr. Chapman has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, associate principal, and superintendent.

As superintendent of Palacios ISD, Dr. Chapman is proud of passing a \$125 million bond. This bond provides funding to upgrade all the district's school buildings to a state-of-the-art design. Dr. Chapman and stakeholders developed the Palacios ISD Strategic Plan, as well as the Graduate Profile and Core Values, focusing on preparing all students for their future. Before his time at Palacios ISD, Dr. Chapman was superintendent of Jarrell ISD where he was instrumental in the

passing of a \$54 million bond for the design and construction of three schools, four building additions, expansions, upgrades, and a new performing arts center.

### Dr. Christopher Eckford

Dr. Christopher Eckford believes in the beauty of education, in that it is not reserved for a certain status of people, and that it helps create endless opportunities for everyone. Eckford is in his seventeenth year as an educator and can't think of anything more gratifying that he would rather be doing with his life than impacting the lives of his students and staff so they can position themselves to experience success. Eckford is the first Black principal on his campus and has the distinction of leading a Title I campus of over 1300 students to earn an "A" rating. Before becoming principal, Eckford served as a science teacher, coach, and assistant principal. Dr. Eckford earned his Doctor of Educational Leadership from the Sam Houston State University in 2017.



### Dr. Janice Taylor

Dr. Janice Taylor's love of education stems from her childhood, as her mother, aunts and uncles were all educators. Throughout her life she watched her family make a difference in the lives of children and wanted to do the same thing. Dr. Taylor received her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from Sam Houston State University in 2009.

Dr. Taylor served as a teacher, administrator, and professor during her career before retiring from Klein ISD. Taylor currently serves as Clinical Instructor and Co-Coordinator of the Educational Administration Program in the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Prairie View A&M University.

[Learn more about the Distinguishehd Educator of the Year Honorees](#)

### It's okay not to be okay

Counseling sessions are available at the Jack Staggs Counseling Clinic [View the flyer](#)

### Professor Featured on PBS News Hour

Dr. Meredith Billings was interviewed by PBS News Hour to talk about promise programs/free college. Promise Programs offer recent, local high school graduates tuition-free college for institutions in a specific geographic area. [Read the article](#), [Watch the video clip](#)

### Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid training is March 10 from 9am-3pm. Cost of attendance is \$35. Email [Dr. Daphne Johnson](#) for details

### Inclusive Dialogue Book Series

You're invited to the 5 in 10 Inclusive Dialogue series. Each presenter will spend 10 minutes talking about a book that is on the banned books list or debated in the media as too political to use as part of K-12 school curricula. Mark your calendars for February 7, March 7, April 4, and May 2 from 4-5:00 pm.

[View the presentation schedule](#)

For additional information contact [Dr. Benita Brooks](#) [View the flyer](#)

### Dissertation Announcements

Erin Gordon's Dissertation Final Defense, "SELF-REGULATION AND MOTIVATION IN THE CONTEXT OF ACADEMIC PROBATION: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY", has been scheduled for February 8, 2023 at 10:00 am VIA Zoom. You can access the meeting by using the Zoom Meeting ID:829 8357 3377 or at <https://shsu.zoom.us/j/82983573377>. The dissertation committee consists of: Dr. Nara Martirosyan, Dr. Patrick Saxon, & Dr. Susan Skidmore.

### Upcoming COE Events

**Opportunity Fair - The Woodlands Center** - February 8, 4:00pm - 5:30pm, Sam Houston Room (430)

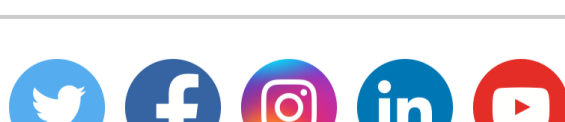
**TEXES Professional Development with SHCEC** - February 18, 11:00am-12:00pm, Teacher Education Center 279

**Distinguished Educator of the Year** - March 4, 6:00pm, Lowman Student Center

**Career and Internship Fair in partnership with the College of Education** - March 22, 9:00am - 12:00pm, Lowman Student Center Orange Ballroom

**Diversity Summit** - April 19, 12:00-5:00pm, Lowman Student Center White Ballroom

[See all events](#)



To be included in the next N3 Share your news with Shelle Goodwin in the [COE Communications Hub](#) by noon on Monday.

*This email was sent to students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College of Education.*