

The Waller County Express

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The journey of a thousand miles begins with just one step.

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HEMPSTEAD ISD ANNOUNCES 2025 TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR



Hempstead ISD
This spring, each campus selected one teacher and one support staff employee who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in education. These teachers and support staff were surprised on their campuses by their leadership teams, school staff, and students.

Every Campus Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year was honored at the Monday, May 19, school board meeting. At the board meeting, MaBisha Stubblefield, Executive Director of Human Resources, named the 2025 District Teachers of the Year, who will represent Hempstead ISD in the Region 4 Teacher of the Year Contest.

Congratulations to the 2025 District Secondary Teacher of the Year, Christina Conklin, and the 2025 District Elementary Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Lopez.

2025 Teachers of the Year Hempstead High School Teacher of the Year

Gabriel Arias, Theatre Teacher/Director

Years in Education: 6
What do you love most about your job?:

My favorite part of teaching is inspiring my students to lead productive and meaningful lives. I love helping them discover their strengths and realize they are capable of more than they imagined. Watching them grow in confidence and take ownership of their goals is incredibly fulfilling. Every day, I get to be a small part of their journey toward becoming the best version of themselves.

District Secondary Teacher of the Year & Hempstead Middle School Teacher of the Year

Christina Conklin, 8th Grade U.S. History Teacher
Years in Education: 21
What do you love most

about your job?:

What I love most about my job is the chance to be part of something that matters. Teaching in an area that has faced its share of challenges gives me a true sense of purpose. I see how my work directly impacts my students and the school community, and that makes the effort feel so meaningful. There's something powerful about being part of a team that's working to make things great! I love a good underdog story, and I'm proud to play a role in ours. At the heart of it all, though, it's the daily connection with kids and knowing I'm helping shape their future that I treasure the most.

Hempstead Elementary School Teacher of the Year
Valarie Minor, 3rd Grade Teacher

Years in Education: 18
What do you love most about your job?:

I love watching my students grow and learn both academically and socially.

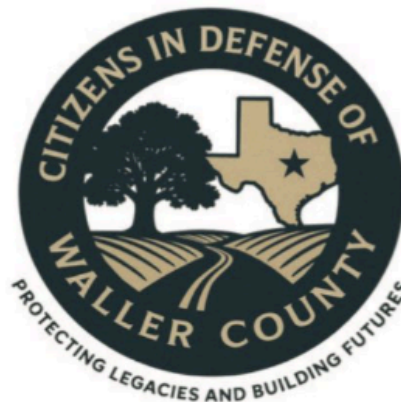
District Elementary Teacher of the Year & Hempstead Early Childhood Center Teacher of the Year

Rebecca Lopez, Pre-K Bilingual Teacher

Years in Education: 20
What do you love most about your job?:

I love the relationships I've created with my students, their families, and our community.

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Citizens in Defense of Waller County is on the agenda for the June 11 Commissioners Court meeting

We plan to introduce ourselves to Commissioners Court and Waller County citizens. We hope to encourage a thought provoking discussion as to why the TexasLand USA theme park may NOT be good for Waller County and her citizens.

Show your support! Please attend if you can!

**WHEN: Commissioners Court Meeting
9am, June 11, 2025**

**WHERE: Waller County Joe Kuciamba Annex
425 FM 1488 - Hempstead, TX 77445**

Please note: This is not a town hall meeting.

and public comment will not be permitted during this session. Our only request is for community members to stand with us through their presence.

If attending in person, please familiarize yourself with the Rules of procedure, conduct and decorum at meetings of the Waller County Commissioners Court.

For virtual viewing, go to Waller County / Home / Public Notices / Calendar, June 11, 2025, Commissioners Court Meeting and click on "Live Feed".

To learn more or to join our efforts to protect Waller County, please visit us at cdwallerco.org.