

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **13 REGION XIII CERTIFICATION GRADUATES ANNOUNCED AS AISD “TEACHERS OF PROMISE”**

**AUSTIN, TX**—Education Service Center Region XIII is pleased that 13 Region XIII Teacher Certification graduates currently teaching in the Austin Independent School District (AISD) were announced as “Teachers of Promise” for this school year. “Teachers of Promise” is a special recognition program that honors Austin ISD novice teachers (zero years of experience) who are demonstrating “promising practice” in their classrooms. Each year, campus principals/staff are asked to nominate a novice teacher who is demonstrating an overall grasp of the components of quality teaching.

The 13 teachers honored are:

- Stacey Kohutek - Austin HS
- Ashley Barnard - Dobie MS
- Laura Rice - Small MS
- Abby Randall - Akins HS
- Monica Ramirez - Crockett HS
- Elissha Young - Blackshear Elem
- Krista Kilbane - Sunset Valley Elem
- Melissa Adams - Ortega Elem
- Ixchel Granada - Andrews Elem
- Tammi Powell - Walnut Creek Elem
- Jennifer Rosen - Graham Elem
- Dianne Smith - Langford Elem
- Diana Tovar - Jordan Elem

This is a wonderful recognition and professional growth opportunity for beginning teachers. Teachers who are selected as the Teacher of Promise for their campus are honored at a special reception attended by the Superintendent, Board of Trustees, Principals, mentors, and their family. They are also acknowledged on the AISD website and receive a small stipend allocated to their campus general fund for classroom resources.

“We are pleased that AISD has recognized the exceptional work of these teachers,” said Karan Wester, Project Coordinator for Teacher Quality at Region XIII. “The extensive training that our teachers receive before starting to teach, as well as the intensive in-class field support that they receive in the classroom is what sets our program apart from others,” said Wester.

The Region XIII Teacher Certification program is a rigorous field-based program which integrates theory with practice. Teacher-interns make valuable contributions to public schools as they draw upon their diverse past experience. If you are interested in obtaining information about the Region XIII Teacher Certification program, please visit <http://kids.esc13.net/>.

**ABOUT REGION XIII:** Education Service Center Region XIII is one of twenty service centers that serve the Texas educational needs by promoting quality instruction in order to maximize student performance. Region XIII's goal is to achieve a high standard of excellence through leadership, responsiveness to client needs, and by providing quality products that improve student performance. Region XIII is a non-regulatory agency – its relationship with school districts is collaborative and supportive. As a liaison between the Texas Education Agency and local schools districts and the schools they serve, Region XIII disseminates information and provides consultation and training for both federal and state programs. To learn more, please visit [www.esc13.net](http://www.esc13.net).