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TEA REGION 18 EDUCATION SERVE CENTER'S DR. REYNALDO LAGASCA DURAN NAMED KAPPA DELTA PI 'MASTER TEACHER OF HONOR'

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Dr. Reynaldo Lagasca Duran, Regional Mathematics Specialist for Texas Education Agency's Region 18 Education Service Center, is the latest recipient of the Master Teacher of Honor Award from Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), International Honor Society in Education. As the first award recipient of 2016, he joins an exclusive and elite group of educators who have been recognized with this honor.

Dr. Duran has more than 18 years of experience in high school mathematics curriculum and instruction—starting when he received his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education – Mathematics from Saint Vincent's College in Dipolog City, Philippines in October 1996. Since that time, Dr. Duran has spent time as a mathematics teacher and department head for Dapitan City National High School (Dapitan City, Philippines); a participant in the VIF International Education program as a mathematics teacher at South Robeson High School (Rowland, NC); a mathematics teacher at Presidio High School (Presidio, TX); and, most recently, a Regional Mathematics Specialist for Texas Education Agency's Region 18 Education Service Center (Midland, TX).

Kappa Delta Pi's vision of *Quality Learning for All* that defines a quality education as “meeting the learning needs of all students and enriching their lives and overall experience of living,” resonates with Dr. Duran. He writes, as a part of his personal philosophy of education, “I believe that education should be advocated as the great equalizer, and, being a teacher and coming from a minority group myself, my efforts have always been geared toward helping make education equitably accessible to all.”

Dr. Duran also writes, “I believe that education is our best means to build a great world to live in comfortably. I believe that the best way to make this happen is to make education equitably accessible to all so that everybody can contribute in building this great world. And, there can be no other better ways to help students embrace education than empowering them to become active and independent learners.”

Duran has been a member of Kappa Delta Pi since 2010—the same year he was awarded Kappa Delta Pi's Teacher of Honor, which demonstrated his leadership potential and set him on a path to become a Master Teacher of Honor.

His colleague, Laura Kile, Regional English Specialist at Region 18 Education Service center, writes in support of Dr. Duran's nomination, “Reynaldo Duran is one of the hardest working and dedicated educators I have had the pleasure of working with. [He] stands out as both extraordinarily knowledgeable in his field and tireless in his preparations and work with teachers.”

“Rey's teaching experience and expertise in the fields of Special Education and Mathematics allow him to connect with teachers and students alike across our region, promoting positive changes and challenges for those he works with. His unflinching positivity coupled with his content knowledge make Rey an invaluable member of our team,” writes Kile.

Since the award's establishment in 2011, KDP has named a very select few from around the world as Master Teachers of Honor. To earn this designation, an educator must have more than 15 years of classroom teaching experience; submit evidence of professional development, leadership, community service, and exceptional contributions to the education profession; and demonstrate a commitment to integrity and high standards in the classroom. The award recognizes teachers of all levels, from early childhood instructors to university faculty members. To learn more about the designation, go to <http://www.kdp.org/recognition/masterteacherofhonor.php>

About Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.