



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LAKE TRAVIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S MARY ANNE O'BRIEN NAMED KAPPA DELTA PI 'TEACHER OF HONOR'**

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Mary Anne “Mo” O’Brien, a teacher at Hudson Bend Middle School in Austin, Texas, is the latest recipient of the Teacher of Honor Award from Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), International Honor Society in Education. O’Brien joins a select group of educators who have been recognized with this honor.

O’Brien has been employed with the Lake Travis Independent School District since 2013 as a teacher of students in eighth grade Language Arts and Teen Leadership. She is extremely committed to her students and colleagues, going beyond her teaching role by serving on the Campus Advisory Team, co-sponsoring the National Junior Honor Society, starting the campus mentor program, Team Teen, and modeling best practices through the NextGEN learning initiative.

She is also involved in many civic organizations and other professional associations, serving on the Austin Young Chamber as an Ambassador and the Committee Liaison, the Committee Chair of Signs for the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, and the Educator Committee for the UTeach Liberal Arts Leadership Team. O’Brien has many accolades to her name—her most recent being named as a Teacher of the Year finalist for Hudson Bend Middle School in Lake Travis Independent School District.

Students, colleagues, administrators, and parents speak extremely highly of O’Brien and her ability to be innovative as an educator. One parent wrote, “Mo has taught leadership qualities and skills to [her] students . . . [along with] compassion, humility, integrity, and kindness through every medium from appropriate YouTube videos, films, and books, to completing assignments and speeches. I am grateful my son is in her class.”

“Her expertise allows her to positively influence students and staff,” reported Kelly Freed, Assistant Principal at Hudson Bend Middle School. “[She] displays a strong work ethic, dedication, and ambition. Her commitment to bettering the lives of her students one smile, lesson, and heart-felt story at a time allows her to excel in the classroom and her students to strive to become exceptional individuals. To her students, Ms. O’Brien symbolizes new perspectives, opportunities of hope, and the epitome of a caring and compassionate teacher.”

In a handwritten note that appeared on O’Brien’s desk one day, one of her eighth grade students wrote, “I want you to know that every night when I come home from school, I don’t tell my parents about what I’m learning in math or science, but what I have learned in ‘Teen Leadership’ that day.” Like most educators, Mo takes great pride in making a positive difference in the lives of her students.

Kappa Delta Pi established the Teacher of Honor award in 2008. To earn this designation, an educator must have more than three years of classroom teaching experience; demonstrate a commitment to integrity and high standards in the classroom; and submit evidence of professional development, leadership, community service, and exceptional contributions to the education profession. 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/teacherofhonor.php>.

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**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.*