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<i>2007-0114-McLuckie State Educator of the Year</i>		
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Hempstead Independent School District  
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Public Information  
Submitted by: Laurie Bettis

**McLuckie State Educator of the Year**

Gloria McLuckie, theatre arts teacher at Hempstead ISD, was recently named the High School Educator of the Year by the Texas Educational Theatre Association, Inc.

Gloria received her award January 19 at a special awards reception during Theatrefest 2007 held at the Hyatt Regency in Houston. The award, which is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the teaching of theatre, was presented to Gloria by longtime friend and colleague Jeana Gilson. “Those of us who have been lucky to watch Gloria’s plays over the years have been treated to a true MASTERS degree view of theatre education,” said Gilson.

In her acceptance speech, Gloria thanked her many Texas heroes as she acknowledged colleagues, mentors, school administrators and teachers, most of whom were in attendance. “In recent years, we’ve been told it takes a village to raise a child, I say, it takes the Great State of Texas to raise a theatre teacher. I want to thank my Texas heroes that continue in my raising and that are the reasons that I received this award,” McLuckie said.

Having taught for over twenty years, McLuckie has had the opportunity to directly touch the lives of over 4,000 students. Raymond Caldwell, Kilgore College Director, noted that she is definitely deserving of this award. “Gloria has changed many lives,” Caldwell said. “Her sincere empathy with young people, her boundless energy, her willingness to give more of herself than many teachers are able to give, and her uncanny ability to balance artistic inspiration with humane discipline-all blended effortlessly into a positive, cheerful personality-leave many of us wondering how one person can embody so many admirable, enviable qualities and talents.”

Gloria has accomplished many things in UIL with her students on both the high school and middle school level in one act play as well as academic UIL events. While at Hempstead, Gloria has directed several award winning plays, including the 2007 and 2006 middle school district champion one act plays, and the 2006 Hempstead AAA Alternate to State one act play.

During her tenure at New Diana High School, Gloria took one act play casts to state thirteen years between 1990 and 2004. Gloria has directed AA State One Act Play champions for four years, first runner-up plays for four years, and second runner-up plays for three years, and she has had state appearances for two years.

McLuckie received her degree in Theatre & Speech Education from Texas A&M –Commerce (formerly known as East Texas State University). Prior to coming to Hempstead, Gloria taught

at New Diana High School and Middle School from 1987-2005. She has served as the camp director and teacher at several summer drama workshops at Gatesville High School, Livingston High School, Trinity Valley Community College and Lon Morris College.

McLuckie has received numerous awards over the years, including the New Diana High School Golden Apple Award for three years, Teacher of the Year at New Diana High School for two years and the middle school for one year, TAMU-Commerce Alumni Ambassador, Disney Teacher Award Nominee, Texas Woman of the Year, Upshur County Teacher of the Year, and Who's Who Among American High School Teachers from 1988 to the present.

Gloria has been teaching theatre arts in Hempstead at both the high school and middle school for the past two years and currently serves as the UIL coordinator for the high school. The HISD Board of Trustees also recognized Gloria for her accomplishments during a regular school board meeting.

*Supporting Photos: HHS-McLuckieTETAAward-3881*

Long time friend and colleague, Jeana Gilson, presented Gloria McLuckie with the Educator of the Year Award during a special awards ceremony at Theatrefest 2007.



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