

TEXAS BUSINESS AND EDUCATION COALITION

Texas business leaders created Texas Business and Education Coalition in 1989 to engage with educators in a long-term effort to improve public education in our state. TBEC, a nonprofit organization, has been one of the state's most consistent and important forces for improving education results. No other group has been so successful in influencing Texas education policy and stimulating community-based school improvement initiatives. Texas public schools have received national attention for their improved performance resulting in part from TBEC's work. Since its formation, TBEC has become one of the state's most consistent and important forces for improving education in the state.

Today, TBEC:

- Serves as the strong voice of the business community for education improvement;
- Convenes business and education leaders seeking to improve Texas' public education;
- Advocates for education policy that will improve the skills of Texas students;
- Advocates for higher standards – preparing students to compete in the 21st century;
- Encourages students to complete a solid academic course of study so they are prepared for life after high school;
- Recognizes Texas' very best schools for their outstanding work and disseminates information about their effective practices;
- Provides educators with the information needed to make sound educational decisions and the financial data they need to run school districts efficiently;
- Encourages retired or displaced business people to consider careers in teaching;
- Supports the *College for Texans* campaign aimed at achieving the goals of the Higher Education Coordinating Board's *Closing the Gaps* plan;
- Defends standards-based reforms and seeks to strengthen performance and fiscal accountability in the public school system and in higher education; and
- Supports the development and establishment of articulated career and technology programs in high schools, two-year and four-year higher education institutions that meet current employer needs and the anticipated needs associated with regional and state economic development goals.

TBEC's Mission: Bring business and education leaders together to help secure the future of Texas by improving the performance of the State's publicly funded education systems.

TBEC works in the following ways to fulfill its mission.

- Provide state, regional and local opportunities for parents, business, education and community leaders to discuss issues and make recommendations to improve publicly funded education systems.
- Advocate education policy that will drive and support improved performance of publicly funded education systems in Texas.
- Stimulate and support integrated P-16 systemic education improvement initiatives and effective public-private partnerships.

Build awareness of the importance of high performing publicly funded education systems to the future workforce development, economic development and social well-being of Texas.

Principal Biographical Information

Holly Fisackerly is currently principal at Hambrick Middle School in Aldine ISD. She was principal at Oleson Elementary in Aldine ISD coming there after serving as assistant director of education initiatives at Just for The Kids, Inc.

Fisackerly received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Texas Tech University in 1973 and her master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1988. She is certified as a mid-management administrator.

Fisackerly began her teaching career in the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio in January, 1974, where she was assigned to teach first grade at Leon Valley Elementary School. In January of 1978, she moved to Landstuhl, Germany and continued teaching first grade at Landstuhl Elementary School.

She returned to the United States in 1980 and joined Aldine ISD in 1986, where she taught first grade at Worsham Elementary School. Fisackerly transferred to Stephens Elementary School in 1989 as a skills specialist and in 1990 she was named assistant principal at Carroll Academy. She also served as an assistant principal at Dunn Elementary before being named principal at Worsham Elementary in 1996.

She went to be with Just For The Kids in 2001. Fisackerly has 21 years of experience in the field of education and she has spent 15 of those years in Aldine ISD.

Holly has been principal at elementary campuses who have won the TBEC/JFTK Honor School award five times. She also has the unique qualification of being principal at two separate TBEC/JFTK Honor campuses – Wortham in 2000 and 2001 and Oleson in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Karen Noble has been principal of Hillcrest Elementary for twelve years. Hillcrest has received a rating of Recognized twice, and Exemplary for eight consecutive years, by the Texas Accountability System. Hillcrest was recognized as a Title I Commended School in 1997 and as a Title I Exemplary School in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 & 2003. It has been recognized as a National Exemplary HOSTS site for eight consecutive years. Texas Monthly selected Hillcrest as one of Texas' top schools, November 1996 and November 2001.

While Karen has been principal at Hillcrest while they have won the TBEC/JFTK Honor School award four times. Hillcrest won the Texas Business Education Coalition/Just for the Kids Honor Roll for as one of the best elementary schools in Texas for the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. The TBEC/JFTK Honor Roll is the most prestigious award for sustained, whole-school academic excellence in Texas.

Mrs. Noble is Past President of the District V Texas Elementary Principals Association and has been elected by that organization as the District Texas Elementary Principal of the Year. She has served as secretary, treasurer, vice president, and president elect of the organization, which has over 135 members. The Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants chose Mrs. Noble as 1996-1997 Outstanding Principal. She was a finalist for the Lamar University Educator Hall of Fame in 2000.

Mrs. Noble has been in education for twenty-eight years during which time she has taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade math in middle school, and kindergarten, first, fourth, and fifth grades in elementary school. She was an assistant principal for eight years and this is her twelfth year as principal at Hillcrest. She is certified to teach first through eighth grade math, and all subjects in elementary school including early childhood, kindergarten, and special education. She has a Master of Education Degree in Administration and a certificate in Mid Management and as a Superintendent.

Bernard Zarosky holds a Master of Education Degree in Administration and Supervision – Instructional Supervision, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He began teaching in 1979, turning to administration in 1988. He has served as a campus administrator in Victoria ISD, East Chambers ISD, Industrial ISD, Point Isabel ISD, and Karnes City ISD, where he served as high school principal for six years, four of which his campus achieved TEA's *Exemplary* status. He is currently serving as superintendent at Karnes City ISD. He and his wife, Patti, have five children.