

INFORMATION ALERT

February 5, 2016



DICKINSON ISD WINS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEXAS SCHOOL HEALTH

Judy Lee, Director Food and Nutrition Services was presented a 2015 *Award for Excellence in Texas School Health* at a recognition ceremony at the J. J. Pickle U.T. Research Center in Austin, Texas on February 5, 2016. The program, “Herbs for Healthy Kids Diets” was developed, coordinated and implemented in Dickinson ISD by Judy Lee, the program coordinator. Vicki Mims serves as Superintendent of Dickinson ISD.

This year Judy Lee was also the winner of the prestigious Dr. Robert M. Bernstein Special Recognition Award and banner and Dickinson ISD’s name will be permanently displayed in the lobby of the Texas Department of State Health Services Bernstein building. To win this award, a district must be awarded a Reaching for Excellence grant in year one, implement their new program the second year; win a Discovery award in year three and subsequently win the Vanguard award within two years, all with the same program which is what Dickinson ISD did with the Herbs for Healthy Kids Diets project.

This annual, state-wide program, celebrating its 26th year, is sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), School Health Program and funded by the Texas Health Institute (THI) and the Texas Pediatric Society Foundation (TPSF).

This year THI presented nine awards for successful school health programs and initiatives currently in place and those in the planning stage. Cash awards totaling \$14,300 were presented to 10 districts and schools throughout Texas for implementing or planning successful programs during the 2014-2015 school year.

The “Herbs for Healthy Kids Diets” focus was on reducing sodium by using herbs for seasoning. Dickinson ISD Food and Nutrition staff hosts a Kids Culinary Camp each year and teach kids how easy it is to use home grown herbs to help reduce the amount of sodium in recipes. Simply by making a few changes in a recipe, one can reduce the level of sodium in a meal and provide a healthier food choice.

Ben Raimer, M.D., Chairman of the Board for THI presented cash awards and other prizes to this year’s award winners. Kirk Cole, Associate Commissioner, Department of State Health Services delivered key note remarks and announced the winners.

School districts may visit the School Health Program’s Awards for Excellence website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/awards.shtm to find out more about the program.

