



Honorary Leon Jaworski Award For Teaching Excellence In Law Focused Education

Purpose: To recognize an individual in the field of education or law, who has made an outstanding contribution to law focused education through one or more of the criteria listed below:

- Foster and deepen an understanding of the values of our legal and judicial systems.
- Promote and encourage effective law focused education programs in their schools or communities which promote civic engagement and civic knowledge. Facilitate and increase communication and understanding between students, educators, and those involved professionally in the legal system.

Eligibility:

- Can be a licensed attorney or judge in the state of Texas in good standing or a college or university personnel, paralegal or district level supervisor of social studies.
- Individuals, groups or organizations working on law related education projects are eligible for the award with preference given to those nominees engaged in work supporting LFEI programs.
- Classroom teachers are not eligible since they can apply for the regular Leon Jaworski Award.

Nomination packet must include the following:

- Letter of recommendation by the person nominating the candidate
- Applicant's resume

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON



March 26, 2019

Selection Committee for the Honorary Leon Jaworski Award For Teaching Excellence In Law Focused Education

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my great honor to write a letter of recommendation for Dr. Cinthia Salinas' nomination for the Honorary Leon Jaworski Award For Teaching Excellence In Law Focused Education.

Over time, since 1983, when she received her B.A from UT Austin, and when she completed her Ph.D. there in 1999, Dr. Salinas has made outstanding contributions to law focused education in Texas, our nation, and our world. She has worked studiously and judiciously to foster an understanding of democracy, citizenship and its attendant rights and responsibilities.

Today, Cinthia is a tenured professor at UT. Through her work as a social studies educator of pre-service and in-service educators at the University of Texas at Austin, Cinthia has seen to it that civic education and knowledge have been embedded into social studies methods courses, assignments and experiences. As the supervisor of social studies education at UT Austin, she welcomed the Texas LRE program into methods courses at the elementary and secondary levels, thus ensuring that teachers entering classrooms in Texas and other parts of our country would be knowledgeable and prepared to teach law focused education.

Through her work as an advocate for equitable educational opportunities for all students, her research and scholarship have delved into the pressing need to understand the role of educators of color. Preparing and sustaining teachers of color for and in the challenging contexts in which they are often working creates many questions, which Cinthia has probed through deep inquiry. She is one of the foremost authors on this subject in peer-reviewed educational research journals.

Cynthia is an honored faculty member, holding an esteemed position as a Regents Professor. She has also been awarded the Texas A & I Distinguished Alumni Award, and the Elizabeth Shatto Massey Award for Excellence in Teaching. Her awards are too plentiful to list, but you can see them enumerated on pages seven and eight of her CV.

Cynthia is also a loved, sought after and appreciated faculty member. By her students she is held in the highest esteem, having served as dissertation chair or co-chair on 34 doctoral committees and as a member of over 100 dissertation and master's committees. The amount of energy and devotion she exemplifies is extraordinary. The wisdom and mentoring she offers is profound.

Dr, Cynthia Salinas is an amazing scholar and human being. People that change the world do so for reasons that they know best. Her conviction is real; it is grounded in her innate inquisitiveness, a search for more and better ways to help humans realize their potential, and in empathy for her fellow citizens and those who seek to become citizens.

Cynthia is an original thinker, with a beautiful mind and purpose. She would do you honor as a recipient of this award. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can offer further considerations.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lee Webeck". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Most sincerely,".

Mary Lee Webeck, Ph.D.