



TEXAS CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Kristina Tirloni, (512) 477-9415

Lubbock's FOX 34 reporter earns TCTA award for journalistic excellence

AUSTIN – The Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA) has named KJTV-TV and reporter Haley Burks recipients of a 2007-08 Silver Apple award. Founded in 1927, TCTA is an association for Texas teaching professionals and serves 50,000 members across the state.

The award was based on a series of stories Burks produced regarding education-related legislation passed during the 2007 session, local interest to lengthen school days and the possible negative impact to students, and the benefits of end-of-course exams for teachers and students.

Silver Apple award nominees are evaluated according to how well the submitted pieces promote understanding of teachers and education in Texas public schools and the work must be deemed informative, timely, objective, fair and accurate. The award was given for excellence in reporting in the broadcast category, which includes both television and radio. Silver Apple awards have been presented since 1983.

TCTA judges praised Burks for her focus on teachers and the teaching field. "She is a great writer and a real advocate for teachers," noted one judge.

(more)

(TCTA, news release continued)

Burks attended Texas Tech University, where she graduated in December 2005. She worked as KJTV's health producer for a year until her move to reporting in May 2006.

TCTA will host award winners in Houston during the association's annual convention. Educators from across the state will attend the TCTA convention where they also will participate in professional development seminars, develop association policy positions, and elect TCTA leaders for statewide and district positions.

In addition to Burks, TCTA also named Lubbock residents Vernita Woods-Holmes as the 2007-08 School Board Trustee of the Year, Kim Perry as the 2007-08 Administrator of the Year (central office category), and Deborah Settler as the 2007-08 Retiree of the Year. Burks will be recognized along with John Young, *Waco Tribune-Herald* editor/columnist, who won a Silver Apple media award for outstanding work in the print category, with circulation of less than 50,000. All award winners will be honored on March 1, at a luncheon to close the convention.