

To TALE Membership,

I am a bibliophile. This love of literacy led me to a career which I always said I would never become -a teacher. Despite my efforts to pursue a degree to understand people and the impact of their environments, I now seek to create environments where the importance of literacy is embedded into everything we do. I have been an Elementary teacher, Reading Coach, Curriculum Specialist, Assistant Principal and Principal and in each of these roles my goal was to inspire and create life long readers. Along the journey, I also obtained a Master Technology Teacher certification and obtained certifications through Ruby Payne and ABYDOS Literacy Learning. I am currently in the process of completing my Ph.D.

In my quest to seek out other likeminded individuals, I came across the International Literacy Association in 2013 and attended the conference for the first time that year. Attending ILA was a life changing experience for me and only encouraged me to seek out other similar learning experiences, where I would have the opportunity to learn, collaborate, and speak with other passionate educators. Unfortunately, I was not aware of our Texas association until most recently however, this is where I hope I can make an impact on encouraging others to join our organization. Attending TALE this year, returned me to my initial ILA conference where there is energy and excitement for learning and collaboration. Every Texas educator should be made aware of the learning and fellowship opportunities that being a member of literacy-based organization such as TALE provides. Upon returning from TALE, I encouraged my staff as well as our current student teachers to join the organization to keep abreast of current literacy practices.

In a state as large as ours, the representation of membership should reflect not only our size but also our diversity. If elected to the Board, I would work to achieve the following three goals:

- 1) Increase membership with current school-based practitioners both teachers and administrators so that they may keep abreast of current literacy practices
- 2) Increase conference attendance
- 3) Create a local Houston based council

I hope to encourage others to join in the cause to truly understand what literacy means as defined by ILA, *“The ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, compute, and communicate using visual, audible, and digital materials across disciplines and in any context....”* We are all called to be literacy leaders and working with an organization such as TALE provides the opportunity for everyone to do so! Let’s all be Reader Leaders!

In Book Love,

Mrs. Elizabeth Castillo-Guajardo

Elizabeth Castillo-Guajardo

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star7154@gmail.com

*"...articulate, educated, strong,
visionary, and compassionate..."*

*Inspires those around her to commit to
the vision and mission of educating our
students... Understands and
implements educational best
practices..."*

Elena Betancourt
Director of Early Childhood
Development

*"...Passionate, determined,
knowledgeable, and constantly keeps
up with new trends in education..."*

Elisa Pacheco
Principal
Former Supervisor

Professional Profile

Eager to bring elementary students into the twenty-first century using a unique combination of education experiences coupled with an emphasis in reading, writing, and technology integration.

- Hold Masters Degree in Educational Leadership and Bachelors Degree in Sociology
- Obtaining Doctoral degree in Leadership
- ABYDOS Reading and Writing Trainer
- Ruby Payne "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" Trained
- Trained in Sheltered Instruction
- Trained in Balanced Literacy Framework/Guided Reading/Running Records
- Dedicated to enthusiastic and dynamic teaching and leading as a means of creating and nurturing a lifelong love of knowledge in children.

Education, Honors, and Certifications

PhD Leadership

Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX. 2020

M.E. Educational Administration

Lamar University, Beaumont, TX. 2009

Bachelor of Arts Sociology

Southwestern, Georgetown, TX. 2000

Certifications

EC-12 Principal

EC-4 Generalist.

4th-8th Generalist

4th-8th English as a Second Language Generalist

Instructional Leadership Development Certificate (ILD)

Certified Professional Development Appraisal System (PDAS) Appraiser

Key Qualifications

Certified as Principal, Grades EC-8th, Master Technology Teacher

Provide daily leadership and supervision to ensure high standards of instructional service.

Direct and manage instructional program and supervise operations and personnel at campus level.

Oversee compliance with district policies, success of instructional programs, and operation of all campus activities.

Experienced in meeting the needs of at-risk students and creating a stimulating and challenging learning environment, conducive to the highest level of achievement

Instructional leader capable of developing, planning, directing, and evaluating curriculum including educational resources, textbooks, and supplemental materials

Experience with organizing and training for all state assessments

Able to facilitate study groups, coach and mentor PK-5 classroom teachers and give daily support to the classroom. Assist with screening, diagnosing and monitoring student progress, as well as helping determine appropriate intervention strategies and customize intervention programs for students

Experienced Computer Educator

Designed and conducted various faculty and student technology trainings. Instructed personnel in use of word processing, desktop publishing, and Web 2.0 tools.

“...Supportive, promotes professional development, encourages lifelong learning in not only students but staff as well”

Elvia Cavazos
5th Grade Reading Teacher,
ABYDOS Trainer

*“Emerson said that “To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”
My goal is to know that I have made a difference in the lives of the children and individuals I have worked with.”*

Elizabeth Guajardo

Computer Skills

- **Software** :Microsoft Windows®, Microsoft Word, EXCEL, Google Docs, Publisher
- Working knowledge of the **Internet**
- Working knowledge of Eduphoria for data management
- Working knowledge of Web 2.0 Tools: Wordle, Glogster, Prezi, Wikis, Blogs

Employment

Professional Development in Education

- **Houston ISD, Houston, TX** August 2012 to present
Principal PK-5
Assistant Principal
- **University of Texas Brownsville, Brownsville, TX,**
August 2011 to December 2011
Part time Technology Professor
- **Donna ISD, Donna, TX** August 2006 to August 2012
Reading Coach/Interventionist,
5th Grade Science Teacher
- **Weslaco ISD, Weslaco, TX,** August 2005 to June 2006
Teacher

Professional Development Trainings

- **Texas Association of Literacy Education, 2018**
- **National Council of Teachers of English, 2018**
- **International Reading Association, 2018**
- **ABYDOS International, 2010-2019**
- **Ruby Payne, A Framework for Understanding Poverty 2013**
AHA Process, Santa Fe, NM

Presentations

- **Surfing with Technology, 2011**
District Technology Symposium, Donna ISD, Donna, TX
- **Tech Cubed, August 2010**
Technology Symposium, Donna ISD, Donna, TX
- **Comprehension Week, August 2010**
Donna ISD, Donna, TX
- **Determining Importance in Expository Text, 2009**
English Language Arts Symposium, Donna ISD, Donna, TX
- **Literacy Workstations 3rd-5th, 2009**
English Language Arts Training, Donna ISD, Donna, TX
- **Cultivating a Reading Writing Workshop, 2009**
District Training, Donna ISD, Donna, TX
- **Implementing Literacy Workstations/Differentiated Instruction, 2009**
District Training, Donna ISD, Donna, TX

Professional Affiliations

International Reading Association
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Texas Computer Education Association
Texas Association for Literacy Education
Texas Council of Women School Executives

References

Upon request

To the Texas Association of Literacy Education Committee,

As an educator, it gives me great honor and service to recommend fellow educators who has the desire to add value in a field of study that requires dedication, persistence and a genuine love for the craft. Due to the magnitude of the daily challenges and the cumbersome task of high stakes testing, the field of education is in need of committed stakeholders who will develop a personal philosophy to enhance the lives that will impact the society in which we live in. Therefore, it is my duty to highly recommend Mrs. Elizabeth Castillo-Guajardo as a potential candidate for the At - Large Director position for the Texas Association of Literacy Education, solely based upon her innate leadership, genuine passion for reading and literacy, content knowledge, facilitation skillset and highly respected degree of professionalism.

Mrs. Guajardo possess leadership traits that exemplifies one who naturally leads with an unknowingly servant leadership role. Through her passion, she creates the school environment and classroom settings into a laboratory for developing young minds into critical thinkers in order to be productive members of society. Based on this trait, it is commonly known that her characteristic of leadership is not only well respected by her staff, students, colleagues and appointed supervisors. It is because of her servant leadership demeanor, work ethic and proven abilities that will make her an excellent candidate for this esteemed position. As she joins a new community of educators, she will collaborate on varying subject matter that she is competent and experienced in, that will ultimately yield a greater sense of purpose of educating children; **our most precious resource**.

Based on my professional view and former supervisory role to Mrs. Guajardo, I will support her efforts as she pursues this next step in her career, believing that she will implement these new learning experiences with the same or greater degree of genuine practice and fidelity. I have no form of doubt or current objections that will cause me to believe that your selection committee will regret awarding Mrs. Guajardo with this phenomenal opportunity. I am confirming my support and ethical vow to request that her professional journey continues through the higher levels of instructional leadership offered by your program in order to increase student achievement without any reservations.

Sincerely,

Carlos R. Phillips II, Ed.D.

Principal

Booker T. Washington High School & The High School of Engineering Professions

832-435-0420

cphilli2@houstonisd.org

Claire Mueller

5530 Jackwood
Houston, TX 77096

832.264.0100

cmueller@cli.org

TALE Members and Board of Directors,

It is my pleasure to provide my endorsement of Elizabeth Guajardo as a TALE Director-at-large. I have known Elizabeth since August 2016, when we met through a partnership between Mitchell Elementary and Children’s Literacy Initiative (CLI). As the Regional Manager for CLI in Houston, I am fortunate to have such an excellent literacy partner in Mitchell’s principal, Elizabeth Guajardo. She is truly the “Reader Leader” at her school, and everyone knows it! Her passion for reading and literacy is evident to students, teachers, parents, school partners and fellow administrators. This passion is also a lived reality in every space on the campus, including classrooms, hallways, and the principal’s office.

As a former literacy coach, Elizabeth maintains and strengthens her knowledge of current practice in literacy education, and keeps at the forefront of her thinking research-based best literacy practices. She is an encourager and champion of children and teachers alike. It is indeed fortunate that Elizabeth is willing and able to share her deep literacy knowledge with all TALE members. She will be an outstanding addition to the Board.

Most sincerely,

Claire Mueller

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