

April 16, 2018

Texas Association for Literacy Education
8000 Donore Place, Villa 12
San Antonio, Texas 78229

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Pearl Dean Garden, a current doctoral student at Texas A & M-Commerce, where I am working toward a degree in Supervision-Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in reading. I work as a K-2 Instructional Specialist in Dallas ISD where I have worked for 20 years as both an educator and specialist. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and two Master's degrees -one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Advanced Literacy. I am also a certified Reading Specialist. I have been a member of TALE and ILA for the last two years and it is my intent to continue with those memberships and take a more active role in both organizations in my future as a literacy leader.

I have sought to be a part of TALE's Educational Empowerment committee and use the newsletter and journal to keep current with what is happening in the world of literacy. It is my intent to participate deeper in our organization by being a member of the Board of Directors. I believe as I grow in knowledge and skills I can be a valuable asset to the TALE organization here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in my dealings at Texas A & M- Commerce and Paul Quinn College. It is my goal to be in line with our mission of promoting literacy to enhance the lives of all Texas citizens starting with the educators I work with every day and then with my classmates at A & M-Commerce and with the students I work with at Paul Quinn College.

Thank You for your consideration,

Pearl Garden M.Ed.

Pearl D. Garden

Improving Performance • Enhancing Programs • Inspiring Systemic Change
pgarden@dallasisd.org | 214.908.9378 | <http://www.pearldeangarden.com/>

EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST

...dedicated to guiding students to succeed while inspiring an insatiable passion for literacy and learning.

Patient Leader, Bridge Builder and Certified Educator with 20 years' experience effectively instructing elementary aged students and creating successful learning programs.
Matriculating **Doctoral Student** at Texas A & M-Commerce.

EDUCATION

M.Ed., Advanced Literacy Concordia University
M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction, University of Phoenix
B.S., Kinesiology, Texas A&M-Commerce

CERTIFICATIONS

K-12 Special Education | English as a Second language | Early Childhood - 6th grade
K-12 Reading Specialist
Certified Teachstone CLASS K-2 Observer & Rater

ORGANIZATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Omicron Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- **Professional Development/Literacy Coach/Instructional Specialist-** Responsible for training and coaching educators on best practices in literacy and other content area education, as well as **creating and presenting** summer professional development for Dallas ISD k-2 educators.
- **Instructional Leadership** - Balanced blend of motivational and targeted instruction methodologies to enhance curricula, focus on the three 'R's - rigor, relevancy and relationships. **Teacher Leader, Teacher Mentor, Teacher Motivator, Teacher Coach**
- **Managed 20 teachers**, made schedules, coordinated the 21st Century Learning Grant funded after-school and summer enrichment programs.
- **Competent in General Education and Special Education best practices** and good first instruction as well as RTI, scaffolding, and differentiated instruction in the elementary classroom setting.

HIGHLIGHTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Development/ Instructional Specialist
Dallas Independent School District-Central Administration

August 2015 –Present

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Mentor, coach, and train K-2 content area educators on research-based best practices
- Create research-based professional development sessions for educators.
- Present information about current research-based best practices to teachers and administrators

J. P. Starks Math Science and Technology Vanguard Elementary School
Dallas Independent School District

August 2013- 2015

Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Plan lessons using the school district's curriculum guides and state standards
- Grade level team lead responsible for getting administrators updates to my team
- Teacher-Second Grade
- Created and administered assessments and use the data to drive my classroom instruction

H. I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary School
Dallas Independent School District

August 2005-2013

Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Teacher grades 1,2,3,4,5
- Science Fair Coordinator

H.I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary School (**21st Century Grant Site Coordinator**)
Dallas Independent School District

August 2005-2010

Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Manage the 21st Century Grant After-School program.
- Budgeted grant money
- Scheduled classes for students to take
- Managed a staff of about 20 teachers
- Kept contact with parents of about 60 k-5th grade students
- Kept efficient record of staff, budgets, schedules
- Created documents(Excel and Word) for record keeping
- Attended monthly meeting with the project managers
- Worked directly with outside vendors to solicit their services

H.I. Holland at Lisbon Elementary School (**Special Education Self-Contained**)
Dallas Independent School District

August 2005-2013

Job Duties and Responsibilities

- Work with students with various disabilities
- Planned lessons to work with different academic abilities
- Use differentiation to implement lessons for the different ability groups
- Adhere to IEP expectations
- Complete and keep current state mandated and required documentation

Highlighted Achievements

- Contributed to a significant increase in student performances on standardized and norm referenced testing.
- Provide instructional and administration leadership as the site coordinator for the 21st century after-school grant funded program, during a five year grant program in which 100 to 200 children were served in each of those years. The overarching goal of the program is to assist all students and their parents in having fun and safe environment after-school hours.

- Train educators on using data to drive instruction in the literacy classroom
- Mentored, Coached, and trained k-2 educators
- Partnered in the creation of summer professional development for k-2 educators in Dallas ISD.
- Presented critical math update from summer professional development to Dallas ISD principals
- Created and presented a seminar on read-alouds at TALE 2017 and TALE 2018 and Bill Martin Jr Symposium (2016 and 2017)
- Participated in the A & M-Commerce Research Symposium 2018



April 18, 2018

Dear TALE Membership:

Letter of Recommendation for Pearl Garden.

I am writing this letter to recommend Pearl Garden for a position of TALE Board Member. As a member of Dallas Independent School District's former Literacy Academy, Pearl consistently exhibited a growth mindset, communication skills, peer collaboration, and reliable program organization.

Pearl was a K-2 Literacy Specialist in the K-2 Curriculum and Instruction, where I served as Director. As a specialist, she was punctual, organized, and engaged. She collaborated well with others, and was a natural leader among her peers.

I believe Pearl will be a positive addition to the TALE Board. It is my sincerest belief that her undeniable commitment to students, colleagues, and the literacy community will provide TALE with the best possible avenue to success.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Leslie Haas'.

Dr. Leslie Haas
Assistant Professor of Education
Literacy and Early Childhood Education