

2008 Pat Shell Scholarship

The Texas Council of Women School Executives Scholarship Committee is pleased to invite applications for the 2008 Pat Shell Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of Pat Shell—an outstanding Texas education leader and mentor to both men and women educators. The most recent recipient of the Pat Shell Scholarship was Vicki L. Line, Highland Park ISD (ESC 16).

Who is eligible for the award?

Any Texas woman superintendent. Preference will be given to TCWSE members. Registration for the TCWSE 2008 Summer Conference includes membership for 2008–2009. A membership form is also located online at www.tcwse.org.

What is the award?

Up to \$1,000 to be used for professional development. The scholarship award may be used to pay for research, travel, conference fees, and related experiences for professional development activities. The award is made on a reimbursement basis and funds must be expended within 12 months following announcement of the award at the TCWSE 2008 Summer Conference (June 20–22, Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin).

What are the award recipient's responsibilities?

The recipient of the Pat Shell Scholarship will be encouraged to share her learning and expertise by making a presentation at the TCWSE 2009 Summer Conference. The recipient also is encouraged to submit an article about her related experiences for publication in the TCWSE newsletter.

What information do applicants need to submit?

- (1) A letter of application describing the professional development activity to be funded by the scholarship and explaining how this activity relates to the applicant's career goals.
- (2) A current resume/vita.
- (3) Supporting materials or anything else the applicant feels is important for the committee to consider in making its selection.

What is the deadline for applications?

All application materials must be postmarked by Friday, May 9, 2008.

The TCWSE Scholarship Committee encourages all individuals who meet the eligibility criteria to apply. If you are not eligible but know someone who is, please encourage her to apply for the scholarship. Your interest in and assistance with this worthy effort is most appreciated.

Please return completed application materials to:

Ann Halstead, Executive Secretary, TCWSE
406 East 11th Street, Austin, TX, 78701-2617 • Fax: 512-482-8658

Patricia M. Shell

Pat Shell, retired from the superintendency in Brazosport ISD, continues to mentor leaders across the state and the nation. Educators turn to her for mentoring because of the philosophy by which she has lived throughout her career:

My personal philosophy of education focuses on the child and stresses the value, worth, uniqueness, and importance of every individual. It includes the importance of assisting each child to reach beyond his or her potential. It includes methods to encourage, technology to assist, personnel to teach, and guidance to lead—for every individual. I strongly believe that all children can and should learn together.

There is also a broader dimension to my philosophy of education. I am convinced that our nation's commitment to full access to education for all is the only acceptable position for our country, that equity and excellence are both attainable, that the durable American dream that an outstanding education is the key to a better life is still rooted in reality, and that we as individuals and as a society have a new sense of urgency to make our public education schools once again equal to these expectations.

Pat Shell was a keynote speaker for the very first organizational meeting of TCWSE. She has served in leadership positions with integrity and results for the young people of Texas. She is an advocate for quality in leadership that can make a difference in the quality of education. Dean Corrigan of Texas A&M University wrote about Pat Shell, "She has the rare ability to convince people that they can do the things they ought to do even when they think they do not have the ability to do them. She has high expectations; she mixes a unique quality of caring with a caring of quality."

We honor Pat Shell as a mentor and continue to covet her counsel to improve leadership skills to ensure success for young people in the future.