



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Robyn Sewell-Poutra Receives Excellence in Education Award



**Robyn Sewell-Poutra**

At the recent 6th annual Goldin Foundation Educators Forum hosted by Goose Creek CISD, Robyn Sewell-Poutra, Title 1 Math Peer Facilitator at William B. Travis Elementary School in Goose Creek CISD, was recognized for "Excellence in Education." Robyn was selected for this award in 2008-2009, and she joined the group of distinguished educators, who since 1991 have been recognized by the Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education, for making outstanding contributions in their classrooms, their schools, and their communities. She shared her experiences, projects, and insights with other

teachers, administrators, parents, and members of local communities at this regional forum. Robyn was introduced by Dr. Marshall Goldin of the Goldin Foundation.

Robyn received the Bachelor of Science degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1988 and the Master of Education degree from University of Houston in 1997. Her great grandmother used to say, "Whatever you do, even if it's making a pan of biscuits, make it the best pan of biscuits you can make." Robyn Sewell-Poutra models this lesson daily. She has determination and passion to help others. A strong leader on her campus, district, and beyond, Robyn inspires and encourages her colleagues. She mentors students and teachers, trains teachers on the latest technology software, and even finds the time to do something special for teachers in her hallway on their birthdays. Her door is always open so that anyone can stop in her office for assistance. She inspires others to think outside the box to find ways to capture children's interests; and she constantly finds new ways to integrate technology in the classroom. As math facilitator, Robyn organizes math tutorials for students with academic and emotional needs. Believing that student success depends on student-teacher relationships, she hand-picks tutoring teachers and pairs them with students according to their personalities. Robyn has high expectations for her students, holds them accountable, and will not allow them to give up.

Creativity reigns in math classes! Robyn devised a problem solving strategy that is implemented at both the elementary and middle schools. Math is full of abstract concepts, and the thinking strategy SC?PLAN teaching skills through a problem-solving lens that integrates reading and language arts into the realm of math story problems. Students' attention is directed to "S", the setting; and "C" the characters involved. The "?" gets students to restate the problem in their own words. "P" is for picture of the problem, and "L," label it. Then they write the "A," action, and finally a number sentence "N" that shows their thinking.

Every day, Robyn and her Tiger Cubs produce the morning announcements telecast that is written, directed, and produced by students for the whole school. Each child learns to man the camera, stage the featured homeroom, and prepare the teleprompter. Different homerooms participate in this project each week.

Helping children extends beyond the classroom. Would you believe drag racing for kids ages six to seventeen? Robyn travelled to California to assist in a groundbreaking program for children to learn about racing: its mathematical application, sportsmanship, responsibility, and teamwork. She worked with Community in the Schools and the after-school Gang Activities Program that provides disadvantaged students opportunities to earn college scholarship money. And, she and her husband sponsor five of these students.

Being a devoted and great teacher is more than a career for Robyn; it is a way of life. Thus Robyn Sewell-Poutra is a recipient of the Goldin Foundation Excellence in Education awards for 2009-2010.

The Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education is a non-profit organization that was established in 1990 to recognize the "unsung heroes" in education for their excellence, expertise, and demonstrable achievement in education. Initially, the foundation served the thirteen school systems represented by The Education Cooperative (TEC) in metro-west Boston. It has since expanded to include school systems served by The Education Collaborative of Greater Boston (EDCO) and other school districts in California and Texas. The foundation provides six annual awards of \$500 to each grouping of school systems, to be used at the discretion of the individuals selected.

Excellence in Education awards are given to any persons working directly with students, teachers, or other support staff within the school or community. Individuals are nominated by their fellow teachers, administrators, parents and other members of the community.

Awards are decided by an Advisory Board comprised of previous Goldin Foundation award winners. Central to the Goldin Foundation's process are: the Educators Forum, a time when recipients, nominators, and community members gather together at one of the schools to present and reflect on their projects and experiences inside and outside of the classroom; internal recognition and support that occur within a given school and local community; professional development; and networking with current teachers, college students preparing to be teachers, and industry representatives.

Ultimately, students are the recipients of the instruction and personal connections by outstanding educators.

According to Harriet Goldin, president and founder of the organization, "It is the Goldin Foundation's belief that educators play a vital role in society in supporting young people's growth and preparing them to be adaptable, flexible, creative, and responsive to future societal changes. Our goals are to foster the respect for and appreciation of educators, to seek the retention of outstanding educators, and attract dynamic, intelligent, and creative future educators." Information about the Goldin Foundation awards for 2011 will be sent to participating schools in October 2010; selection of award winners will be made in February 2011; and the annual Educators Forum will take place in April 2011.

For additional information, refer to the website: [www.goldinfoundation.org](http://www.goldinfoundation.org).

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