**Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education Honors Award Winners**

The Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education (TALAE) announced today their 2021 award winners. Student awards include High School Equivalency Adult Learner of the Year and ESL Persistence Adult Learner of the Year. Adult educator awards include categories for Administrator, Teacher, and Support educators.

TALAE honored recipients and guests of awards at the annual TALAE Award Ceremony on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:00 pm offered virtually statewide. Winners will receive a cash award made possible by sponsorships from GED Testing Service and Burlington English.

“I am proud to recognize these Texas adult learners and educators through the TALAE awards process for their dedication and commitment to adult education and literacy,” said TALAE Past President Tiffany Johnson. “These exemplary students and educators demonstrate excellence and contribute to adult education awareness, as well as serve as role models for adult learners across the state of Texas. TALAE is honored to recognize their outstanding efforts and achievements.”

The award finalists were chosen from among adult learners and educators nominated by local program instructors and staff for their contributions and dedication to the completion of academic goals and serving the adult learners in Texas. Award winners are selected from across the state of Texas.

2021 award winners include:

*ESL Persistence Learners:*

* Rashida Hosier – Austin Community College
* Maria Gabriela Martinez – Literacy Council of Tyler Consortium, Kilgore College
* Antonia de Paz Guzman – Region 5 ESC
* Anayanci Samaniego – Region 20 ESC
* Josefina Santos de Garza – Region 20 ESC
* Ana Soto – Region 20 ESC
* Carolina Ventura – Victoria College
* Miguel Zavala – Far West Consortium, Ysleta Community Learning Center

*HSE Learners:*

* Laura Anchondo – Far West Consortium, Ysleta Community Learning Center
* Joaquin Flores Carrillo – Far West Consortium, San Jacinto Adult Learning Center
* Marisela Gandarilla de Guardado - Far West Consortium, San Jacinto Adult Learning Center
* Naidu Gracia – Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston Community College
* Jahaziel Lopez – Literacy Council of Tyler Consortium, Kilgore College
* Kimberly Ochoa – Austin Community College
* Xytlalic Pardo – Austin Community College
* Alexiex Rosales – Far West Consortium, Ysleta Community Learning Center