

SARA MAXWELL, *Winner of the 2010-2011 WSD Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching Award*

*Personal and Family Development instructor,
WSD Career and Technical Education program,
Crain Unit, Gatesville, Texas*

It is with great pleasure Windham School District announces the final results of the 2010-2011 Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching Award and also expresses gratitude to the many outstanding educators who participated in the initiative. Through this two-year process, participants are honored at four levels: Campus Nominees, Regional Semifinalists, Regional Finalists, and Winner.

WINNER
SARA MAXWELL

“Ms. Maxwell was nominated due to her dedication, compassion, and true desire to make a positive difference in the lives of students,” Crain Unit Principal Jim Gardner said. “She is a true leader on our campus, relentless in her pursuit to improve instruction in her vocational classroom. She exceeds my expectations every time.”



A stitch in time: Sara Maxwell shares sewing tips during a class project at the Crain Unit. Maxwell has served as a WSD correctional educator in the Texas prison system since 2000.

REGIONAL FINALISTS
FARRIS, GIBSON, ABLE

*...top list of best
correctional educators
in Texas!*



Cathy Farris
Estelle Unit



Pam Gibson
Ware Unit



Dolores Able
C.T. Terrell Unit

Four finalists were selected from an outstanding group of 12 Windham semifinalists as WSD searched for its top teacher for 2010-2011.

Finalists in the Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching initiative were actually observed teaching in their classrooms twice: once by regional committees as semifinalists, and then by the Excellence in Teaching Steering Committee during the final phase. Each amazing educator presented a comprehensive lesson and participated in an interview with the committee, demonstrating why these women represent the best prison educators in Texas.

“Each displayed unusual expertise and enthusiasm as a correctional instructor, along with fierce commitment to the profession,” Superintendent Debbie Roberts said.

“Congratulations to the Excellence in Teaching winner Sara Maxwell and finalists Dolores Able, Pam Gibson, and Cathy Farris for representing what is best in the Windham School District. We will be proud to introduce them to the WSD Board of Trustees during a special recognition ceremony in Austin this fall.”



“Student success depends on having strong educators. You are the foundation of our success in reducing recidivism and changing lives for the better.”

WSD Superintendent Debbie Roberts



Pam Gibson leads a literacy lesson at the Ware Unit.

**Making a
difference
every day.**

Congratulations,
**REGIONAL
SEMIFINALISTS**

*WSD Lane Murray
Excellence in Teaching
Award*



Gulf Coast

Dolores Able, C.T. Terrell
Danny Crisp, Ramsey
Barbara Mosley, Stringfellow

North Texas

Josephine Smith, Ellis
Cathy Farris, Estelle
Paula Smith, Johnston SAFP

South Texas

Gary Griffin, Dominguez SJ
Sara Maxwell, Crain
Terence Smith, Travis County SJ

West Texas

Joe Branham, Havins
Michael Cole, Jordan,
Pam Gibson, Ware

Thank you to all finalists,
semifinalists, and campus nominees
for demonstrating the
professionalism and talent within a
demanding prison environment
that distinguish Windham
educators as some of the best!



Cathy Farris uses literacy and self-esteem building to help Estelle Unit students overcome personal obstacles, paving the way to success after release.



Dolores Able emphasizes basic writing and speaking skills in her English as a Second Language (ESL) class at the C.T. Terrell Unit.