

Dr. Cecelia Boswell, Class of 2001, Texas Tech University

Cecelia began her career teaching migrant, gifted, and UIL Number Sense and Ready Writing students (where her number sense team flourished) in De Leon, Texas. While there, she was a finalist for Texas Migrant Teacher of the Year. After 17 years at her hometown school, Cecelia moved to Abilene, Texas to work for the Region 14 Education Service Center. Starting as the language arts specialist for this sixteen-county region, she advanced to the Director of Gifted Education and was later named the State Director of AP/IB Projects. As her late friend and noted author Charles Chupp said in a story he wrote of Cecelia, “she rode herd on more school marms and kids than he could count.” Along with these accomplishments, she developed a cadre of colleagues spanning not only Texas but the nation and world.

While at Region 14, she received the award for Gifted Advocate of the Year and the prestigious, Edward B Chance national award for Dissertation of the Year for her doctoral research regarding rural youth leadership. Titled, “Perceptions of Leadership: A Study of Rural High School Youth’s View of Leadership”.

Fifteen years passed and Cecelia felt the urge to move on and after a short stint working for Tarleton University with special projects, she founded Austin Creek Education Systems, an educational consulting firm. Her business flourished and became known nationwide as ACES. She has developed curriculum for the Texas Education Agency, Florida Department of Education and conducted and led research projects for the prestigious International Baccalaureate, an international education organization.

Several years passed as Cecelia continued to develop her business, one that involved travel and speaking engagements across the nation. During this phase of her career, she served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented.

The year of 2011 brought a new challenge when she was recruited to Waco, Texas ISD to serve as the Executive Director of Gifted Education and Advanced Placement. While in Waco, Cecelia revamped the gifted and advanced placement programs and was in charge of creating the WISD Middle School Gifted Atlas Academy. Atlas brought hundreds of gifted learners from across this large urban district to an academy that recognized the special needs of gifted children.

While at Waco, Cecelia was elected to the board and later served as president for the national organization, Council for Exceptional Children / The Association for the Gifted.

During her last year at Waco ISD she was awarded the Texas Administrator of the Year by the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented (TAGT) and the Texas Math and Science Academy for her work creating the Atlas Academy and tireless efforts to help gifted children. For this award, she was honored at the TAGT convention in Ft. Worth Texas, recognized by The State of Texas House of Representative (HR 1872) and later

was honored by the Texas Association of School Administrators in Austin at their annual convention.

Along this winding and exciting career, Cecelia has often been published in journals nationwide. She has written teacher guidelines for many authors, including John Erickson in his “Hank the Cow Dog” series. Her works also include 26 “private addition” children’s books that she has written for her grandchildren, and co-authored 4 books on gifted education, some of which are being used in college instruction and have been translated and sold internationally. Her 6th book as a co-editor for *Twice Exceptional Learners* is now available, The next, *Culturally Responsive Teaching*, is anticipated to Spring 2021.

In 2015 Cecelia returned to her company where she maintained offices in Waco and De Leon. She continues to consult for a variety of school districts and educational organizations, produce professional learning courses for the Texas Education Agency and is the Education Consultant for the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented.