

**DATE:** March 11, 2016

### **DSHS Teacher is State Finalist for Teaching Award**

Dripping Springs High School English Language Arts teacher Rachel Foreman learned this afternoon that she is one of five finalists statewide for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Rising Star Secondary Teacher of the Year. The Rising Star category indicates "exceptionally promising teachers with less than 10 years of experience."

H-E-B's Excellence in Education is the largest monetary awards program for educators in Texas, and among the largest in the nation. The honor was kept a surprise from the educators, who learned they were finalists when H-E-B representatives visited their classrooms and schools with balloons, cake, and flowers. Finalists were presented with a \$1,000 check for themselves and a \$1,000 check for their schools.

Ms. Foreman was one of eight finalists hailing from Central Texas in various awards categories. She was nominated for the award by a student, then was asked to follow through by submitting additional information. All finalists are invited to San Antonio on May 12-13 to compete on a statewide level for larger cash prizes totaling \$430,000.

H-E-B launched the Excellence in Education Awards program in cooperation with the Texas Association of School Administrators in 2002 as a positive way to support public education in Texas. It has become the largest monetary program for educators in the state, spotlighting best practices and celebrating the passion and creativity of Texas educators.