



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEXAS HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2020 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2020 Dr. Anna Steinberger Outstanding Educator Award of \$1,000 is Mrs. Jerrilynn Miller from Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School in Beaumont, Texas. Mrs. Miller was notified on Wednesday morning during a surprise virtual ceremony.

Having worked at Monsignor Kelly Catholic High School since 2014, Mrs. Miller teaches World Geography, English Language Arts, and a special topics course in Holocaust Literature of her own design. Mrs. Miller is also very active on her campus, sponsoring the journalism and yearbook teams, the Gnip Gnop (Ping Pong) Club, and co-sponsoring the Anchor Club.

Mrs. Miller's dedication to Holocaust education is not only seen in how she teaches her students, but in the trainings and seminars in which she has participated, as well. A United States Holocaust Memorial Museum teacher fellow since 2018, Mrs. Miller attended the Arthur and Rochelle Belfer National Conference for Teachers in 2010. Since then, she has been committed to attending an array of conferences and workshops in Texas and around the world, including those with: the THGC, Region 10 Education Service Center, Holocaust Museum Houston (Max M. Kaplan Summer Institute), Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (Alfred Lerner Fellowship Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University), and Echoes & Reflections Advanced Learning Seminar at Yad Vashem.

This year, due to travel constraints and the need to practice social distancing on account of COVID-19, the THGC held a virtual ceremony for Mrs. Miller. Present at the virtual ceremony were THGC staff and commissioners, and also the award's namesake and donor, Dr. Anna Steinberger. Dr. Steinberger is a Holocaust survivor and served as a founding member of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission. She retired from the University of Texas Medical School in 2001 but has continued to demonstrate a commitment to education in Texas. In addition, Monsignor Kelly Catholic H.S. staff, administration, and students were present to help surprise Mrs. Miller for her achievement.

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This year's contest drew applicants from as far south as La Joya, as north as Dallas, and as far east as Beaumont, where this year's winner currently teaches. The THGC is excited to see educators from so many parts of the state devoted to teaching their students about these subjects.

The THGC is committed to supporting efforts to teach the next generation about the Holocaust and/or genocides in the Ottoman Empire, Cambodia, Rwanda, the Balkans, Darfur, and the Middle East. For each of the past three years, the THGC has presented a monetary award of \$1,000 to one educator who demonstrated a record of excellence in engaging any of the aforementioned subjects with Texas students in grades 6-12. Not only are classroom teachers eligible, but curriculum coordinators and librarians are also encouraged to apply.

The Dr. Anna Steinberger Outstanding Educator Award is facilitated by the [Friends of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission](#) 501(c)3 non-profit. The Friends of the THGC, along with THGC staff and commissioners, congratulate Mrs. Miller and thank all educators who participated in this year's contest. Their important work helps support the important mission of Holocaust and genocide awareness.

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission is a state commission that was established to bring awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides to Texas students, educators, and the general public by ensuring availability of resources.

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If you would like more information about this contest and the winner, please contact Christian Acevedo at 512.463.7998 or christian.acevedo@thgc.texas.gov. Please feel free to visit our website <https://thgc.texas.gov/> to learn more about the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and its mission.