

2017 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards

Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Greeting to 2017 TEEA Winners

Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Hi I'm Governor Greg Abbott. I'm so proud to honor the Texas Environmental Excellence Award winners. You know since 1993, these awards have recognized the very best in environmental protection and resource conservation.

I'm proud that this year's winners include my alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin. They used real-time data as well as innovative ideas to irrigation to help save more than a hundred million gallons of water and about a million dollars per year. The University of Texas is a model for the entire globe.

This year we're also proud to honor the Valley Nature Center in Weslaco. Staffed by committed employees and volunteers, the VNC provides interactive educational programs for thousands of school children and visitors each year. More than just a simple nature center, the VNC is a gathering place, nature preserve, research partner, and influential force for habitat protection and development. The VNC is truly a beacon for the entire community.

Finally, our individual winner has made a lasting and important impact on her students, her school, as well as her community. Martha McLeod is an elementary science teacher at Fulton 4 and 5 Learning Center. Through hands-on learning, Martha has instilled in her students an abiding love of nature and the importance of giving back to their community. Martha's authentic passion inspires the exceptional young Texans she teaches.

These are just a few of tonight's winners who are making Texas a better place to live. The First Lady joins me in congratulating all of our honorees—the winners, and our many finalists.

May God bless you all, and may God forever bless the great State of Texas.

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