

Hall of Fame Class of 2024

Dr. Sharon M. Shields - Dave Campbell Award for Excellence

Dr. Shields was appointed as the La Vega ISD Superintendent on July 11, 2006, and began her term of service on October 1, 2006. She received her Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University in 1993, Master of Education, Mid-Management Certification, and Counseling Certification from Baylor University in 1983, and Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Baylor University in 1980. She is a former La Vega ISD educator and counselor.



Since the early 1980's Dr. Shields has been a strong, confident educator and leader, guiding children to achieve and believe that each individual can and will succeed. As a former counselor, she brings guidance and direction to our students. As a former principal, she brings leadership and determination to help children succeed through targeted studies with emphasis in mathematics. Dr. Shields has also served as a middle school principal at Waco ISD, where she has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills.

Dr. Sharon M. Shields was hired in July 1999 as Executive Director for Instructional Services. She pulled together the district's instructional and instructional support programs and improved the effectiveness and efficiency of the instructional departments. Student performance has improved, and the district received its first "Recognized" campus and District accountability ratings from TEA in 1999-2000, as well as its first "Exemplary" campus ratings (both LVPS and LVES) in 2005-2006. In 2010, La Vega Elementary School was honored to be named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Dr. Shields has devoted herself to organizing, monitoring, and providing leadership on a daily basis and has demonstrated that she can motivate our personnel to work together to improve teaching and student performance. She is highly respected by staff members and the Board for her ability to research and implement new ideas and strategies. She served as Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services from 2002 to 2006.

While serving as superintendent, Dr. Shields has had the honor and incredible pleasure of watching multiple state championships, including the first football championship in program history in 2015. The second football Championship was witnessed in 2018. In 2019, the track team raced to a state championship. The track team earned another state championship in 2021. The girls' basketball team won its first state championship in 2024. A second girl's state basketball championship was achieved in 2023. Not being satisfied, the girls' basketball team repeatedly earning Back-2-Back State Championships in 2024.

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Damon Hurst - Athletic and Academic Achievement Award

Damon Hurst, a former collegiate athlete at Navarro College and Southern Methodist University, is a 2003 La Vega High School graduate. During his time at La Vega, Damon was an all-state football player and standout basketball star for the Pirates. A few of his individual accolades include first-team all-district selections and district defensive MVP honors in both sports. He was also a team captain and a member of the Super Centex All-Academic and Athletic football teams.



Damon continued his athletic career in college, first at Navarro College, where he was a first-team selection to the All-Southwest Junior College Football Conference team and a defensive MVP. He still holds the single-season record for most fumble recoveries with five. His performance at Navarro earned him a full athletic scholarship to SMU. With the Mustangs, he was a two-year letterman and was named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll for his commitment to the classroom. Damon was also an Alumni Association Award recipient, given to the graduating senior who demonstrates outstanding character.

Damon's strong commitment to family is evident in his cherished moments with his beautiful wife Sara and their four amazing daughters: Nahla, Naya, Maya, and Jordyn. As a Community Leader, Damon's commitment extends to his service on the Board of Ally's Wish, a nonprofit that grants final wishes to terminally ill mothers with young children. He also serves on the board of The School Days Foundation, founded by Dr. Eric Thomas, aka "The Hip Hop Preacher," a nonprofit created to empower and equip the next generation of leaders and influencers.

In his professional life, Damon is a Senior Vice President of Private Banking and a Certified Wealth Strategist. With nearly 15 years in the financial industry, he has honed his skills through extensive experience and expertise in private banking and wealth strategy. Damon was selected to join Frost Bank's inaugural Regional Impact Council, which was created to develop initiatives to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging amongst Frost Bank employees. His passion for mentoring young professionals is a shining example of his commitment to promoting growth and success in others, inspiring them to reach their full potential.

Damon was recently appointed as the Dallas Market Leader for COMMA\$, a community dedicated to empowering middle-class Americans to overcome economic barriers and transform the financial landscape to build the prosperous lives and businesses they deserve.

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Lisa Seawright - Educators Award

Lisa Seawright's love for education began with her first teaching job in 1995 in Royse City ISD. There, Lisa taught kindergarten, first and second grade and fell in love with working with young children. In 2003, Lisa married her husband Richard, moved to Waco, and began her journey with La Vega ISD- "I had found my home".

Lisa taught kindergarten and first grade until eventually moving into administration at the La Vega Primary School. Lisa felt she was blessed to become the principal of La Vega Primary in 2012. Even though her husband and her moved to Ft. Worth in 2013, Lisa could not imagine leaving La Vega and decided she would make the commute every day until her retirement in 2024. Under the tutelage of Dr. Shields, Lisa learned what a school family was and the importance of giving grace.



It has always been Lisa's priority to build relationships with colleagues, students, families, and the community. Lisa is so honored to receive this award and to have worked with a district that is led with integrity, grace and compassion for others. "La Vega ISD and the community of Bellmead will always hold a special place in my heart! Thank you for this award and for the memories I will hold dear forever." - Lisa Seawright

Sherry Salter - Coach's Award

Sherry Salter has been married to her best friend, Robert Salter, for thirty-five years. She has three beautiful daughters and six wonderful grandchildren. Sherry graduated from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, where she earned a degree in education.

Sherry has thirty-six total teaching experience and thirty-two years at La Vega ISD. For the first seven years, Sherry taught art and physical education and coached junior high girls' sports at H.P. Miles Jr. High. Sherry moved to the high school, where she coached cross country, volleyball, basketball, track, softball, and soccer over the years. For most of those years, she was the head cross country, assistant basketball, and track coach. During her time at La Vega, she had the privilege of coaching three girls' state basketball championships and several regional and state appearances in basketball, cross country, and track.



Sherry will always cherish and love her time at La Vega. Many memories and friendships were made.
Once a pirate always a pirate!

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1964 Carver High Panthers State Champions AAA Class Baseball - Athletic Achievement Award

The Carver High Panthers Baseball Team completed their 1963-64 school year with a clear-cut baseball championship with a two-game sweep over Hallsville in the chips down state championship series. Carver ended the year with a 21 victories in a rolling to coveted class AAA state crown.

Team Members are Lewis Hays, James Hall, Lawrence Thornton, A. J. Johnson, Richard Allen, Robert Johnson, Henry Johnson, Calvin Touchstone, Billy Benson, Kenneth Anderson, Willie Foster, Clarence Hamilton (ace pitcher), and John Johnson, Lester Broadus, Coach, Charles Wilborn, Coach and Howard Alexander, Manager



Carla Shields - Wayne Samford Friend of La Vega Award

Carla Shields is a native of Waco. She graduated from Jefferson Moore High School in the Waco Independent School District. She earned an Associate Applied Science Degree in Computer Networking and Dental Assistant from Texas State Technical College. Carla earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Tarleton State University. Carla is a Baylor Alumni by Choice.

Carla retired from Atmos Energy Corporation, Plano, Texas, where she served as a Quality Assurance Specialist. In retirement, Carla loves spending time with her family, fishing, landscaping, sports, and cleaning automobiles.

