

Harvard Book Prize Awarded to TVS Teacher and Student

Houston– Nueces Canyon CISD student, James White, has been taking Advanced Placement online courses with great success through the Texas Virtual School (TVS) for the past two years. TVS is a web-based learning initiative designed to meet the needs of Texas public school students and educators. Its mission is to provide extended and flexible learning opportunities for secondary students and educators through web-based programs. TVS is administered by Region 4 ESC and is a consortium of twelve (12) Education Service Centers throughout Texas, including Region 15, where Nueces Canyon ISD is located.

The course taken by James include Geometry, Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Physics, Advanced Placement U. S. History, and Advanced Placement Calculus. He has been accepted to colleges such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University, Rice University and Harvard University this fall. This student attends a very small school with limited access to Advanced Placement coursework except through TVS. Remarkably, the student completed a two semester course in only eight weeks.



TVS online teacher who made this opportunity possible for James is Mrs. Shelley Nebout. Because of these extraordinary accomplishments, Mrs. Nebout was honored as a recipient of the Harvard Prize Book. This is an honor bestowed by Harvard University, through a member of the Harvard alumnae community to “a teacher who has the attributes of a great secondary-school educator.”

Linda Behling Gillis, TVS Coordinator with Shelley Nebout, Prize recipient

This award honors teachers who exemplify the following criteria: First, the teacher has the ability to kindle love of learning. Secondly, the teacher also fosters discernment, critical thinking, independence of thought and precision of ideas. The teacher is able to connect a particular discipline to other disciplines, to our civilization, and to the natural world in which we live, and thereby, to increase a student’s sphere of enjoyment and effectiveness as a human being.

The teacher demonstrates the ability to cultivate goodness and a student’s ability to use his or her abilities to foster the well-being of others and the planet on which we live. Finally, students never forget such teachers. They are always there in the students’ memories to spur them to greatness.

Dr. Nichols Grimes, the president of the Harvard Club of San Antonio, indicated the student mentioned above talked glowingly of Mrs. Nebout during an interview. Dr. Grimes realized Mrs. Nebout fit the criteria for the Harvard Prize Book award. As a result, the Harvard Prize Book Committee decided to award this prize to her.

Mrs. Nebout received this honor on April 18, 2006. The award was presented by Dr. Bill McKinney, Executive Director of Region 4 ESC, through a teleconferencing ceremony in Nueces Canyon that included Region 15 and Region 4. Dr. Grimes honored Mrs. Nebout, along with student James White, Louis Webb, the student’s science teacher at NCCISD, and Scotty Carman, Nueces Canyon High School principal.

Linda Behling Gillis, Ed.S., Educational Specialist and TVS Coordinator, commented,

“It was exciting to hear this honor was being given to one of TVS’s online instructors. TVS is proud of all its teachers and feel this will be an award, not just for Shelley, but a cause for celebration for everyone who works with TVS. All of our teachers are dedicated to one goal, student learning. Mrs. Nebout is a very special teacher...she has students from all walks of life and finds creative ways to meet their specific learning goals.”