

NORTH HARRIS COUNTY COLLEGE UNITED FACULTY

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THE ADVOCATE

NHCC United Faculty
November 1987

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Hobby-Delco Awards Ceremony

The cooperation and hard work of union members and College administrators resulted in a memorable visit to our campus by Lt. Governor Bill Hobby and State Representative Wilhelmina Delco to receive the union's award for Excellence and Vision in Education. These two officials have put their political futures on the line in opposing the forces within the state that would seek to sacrifice the quality of our educational system. Concerning the role of educational unions in this struggle, Governor Hobby stated in his address.

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"Education for Democracy — Democracy for Education"

that "Texas United Faculty and Texas Federation of Teachers have been in the trenches all year, working for an adequate budget for higher education. Without your help, I don't know if we could have gotten even the little additional money that we did."

We want to thank all those who helped to make this event such a success.

Union Members Win Teaching Awards

Two out of the three recipients of the 1987 Teaching Awards are members of NHCC United Faculty. Congratulations Marilyn Rhinehart and Gary Clark! This continues a tradition: though our membership comprises a small (but growing) percentage of the faculty, at least one of the three honorees has been a union member for as long as the award has been given.

We are sometimes told that unions exist to protect the positions of marginal employees and that professionals dedicated to excellence should have no need of a union or interest in joining one. This view just doesn't square with the facts. Instead, the kind of devotion to outstanding performance demonstrated by Marilyn and Gary would naturally lead one to join forces with others in a union that works for the enhancement of our professional status.

Oralee Poteet: Incoming TUF Director

This fall Oralee Poteet replaces Jan Friese as the statewide Director of Texas United Faculty, our parent organization. Oralee has a BS from Florida State and an MSW from UT-Austin. Having taught psychology for 11 years at Austin Community College, she knows our situation very well. In addition, she has had her own clinical practice of psychotherapy for adolescents and mentally retarded adults and has worked as a fundraiser for nonprofit organizations.

Her emphasis as TUF Director is legislative action in support of higher education. She is currently planning an information-gathering symposium for college and university professional staff to guide her lobbying efforts in the next session of the Legislature. The biggest problem facing us, she believes, is that the state's economic future depends on a strong system of higher education just at a time when funds are scarce and the legislators face considerable temptation to cut our budgets.

Welcome to your new post, Oralee! We look forward to working with you in the coming months.