

Dr. Cathy Bryce – 2014 Highlander Award

When she retired from her role as Superintendent of the Highland Park Independent School District, Dr. Cathy Bryce left behind a legacy of commitment and excellence that is appreciated by all who know her. Dr. Bryce, who served as superintendent from 2001-2008, has made a tremendous difference throughout the district, thanks to her limitless energy, strategic thinking, gift for communication, and above all, her uncompromising commitment to each child.

Cathy grew up knowing that she wanted to work with children. Her passion for music led her to pursue her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Midwestern State University. In 1977 she earned her Masters of Education from Southwestern Oklahoma State and her Doctorate of Education from the University of North Texas. Her unique talent was quickly recognized as she moved from choir director and English teacher in Arapaho, Oklahoma to Choir Director in Birdwell ISD, to an administrative position in Lewisville ISD in just over 10 years. Upon arriving at Highland Park in 2001 she embarked on a listening campaign and was quickly able to identify challenging areas and set about finding solutions. Even in the most difficult of financial times for the District, under her leadership, HPISD consistently earned a Superior Achievement rating under the Financial Integrity Rating system of Texas accountability. She continues to be an advocate for increasing the standards of education for all children while working tirelessly to assure that the Highland Park schools continue the excellence in education that is their trademark.

Even with her extremely busy schedule, Cathy always found time to be involved in the community as well. Among her many activities, she served as Board Member and President of the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas, on the Advisory Board of the Dallas Museum of Natural Science, and on the Executive Board of the Circle Ten council Boy Scouts of America.

She will be forever admired for her enthusiastic attendance at student competitions and performances, her deep appreciation for parents and community members, and her loyal support for members of her staff. She is a dynamic and passionate leader who is appreciated and respected by the entire community.