

## ROD MCLERRAN NAMED SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

In his position as a high school social studies, civics, and macro-economics AP teacher, Rodney McLerran has never failed to go the extra mile. McLerran “is truly one of the most student-centered and dedicated educators I have ever had the privilege to work with”, Principal Leasa Dunn declared. “The quality that sets him apart from most teachers is the dedication he shows to his students.”

Mr. McLerran’s 17 years in education were preceded by his Bachelors in Industrial Technology with a minor in History from Sam Houston State University in 1981. As a current Social Studies teacher and bus driver Mr. McLerran exemplifies the kind of commitment every school needs and every child deserves. Still, his dedication to student success reaches further back in time. McLerran was a middle school football, basketball, and track and field coach before moving to the high school level. He says that he teaches 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade “on purpose”, taking responsibility for his students’ standardized test scores. His strategy of teaching them to think rather than memorize has resulted in “bringing exemplary scores of 90 and above over the last five years in both grades, with over 50% of the students earning commended recognition”.

“I can very truthfully say that I am proud to be a teacher,” McLerran says. Within the school, he demonstrates this daily as a campus mentor for new teachers, a field trip organizer, a class sponsor, and a Campus-site based Decision Making Committee member. Principal Dunn states that Mr. McLerran “treats the custodial and cafeteria workers with the same enthusiasm as he does the administrators”, and “treats every student in the same way that he would treat his own child, with a mixture of compassion and respect combined with high expectations”.

“Rod’s activities are not confined to school alone,” one colleague explained, “for over twenty years he was a member of the San Augustine Chamber of Commerce and the Go-Texan Committee....served as a Director of the Boys and Girls Club, Historical Society, and Pineland State Bank. In his ‘spare’ time, he is an active member of the First United Methodist Church”. All of this along with innumerable other sacrifices of time and energy make Mr. McLerran an instrumental community member.

McLerran has previously been honored with the San Augustine High School Teacher of the Month award. The Student Council chapter he advised has been awarded Sweepstakes for the last 10 years and has been voted as a chapter president of District 4 for two terms in a row. Mr. McLerran has rightfully earned the honor and distinction of being named a College of Education Distinguished Educator of the Year from Sam Houston State University.

(This article was taken from the program at the awards ceremony on March 2, 2019 in Huntsville, Texas.)

Under the picture please note that he is holding a certificate from Sam Houston State University signed by the President, Dana Hoyt, wife of San Augustine native John Hoyt and a declaration signed by the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott.