



# PRESENTS THE TEACHER OF THE MONTH



## Cindy Mosteller Coaching, teaching interwoven throughout professional's life, career

“Coaching is teaching and teaching is

the school's softball program during her second year on campus.

The Pennsylvania native found her way to Texas via a softball scholarship awarded her by Baylor University where she earned her B.S. in teaching. She followed that up with a master's degree in education with an emphasis in sports management, which would qualify her to serve as an athletic director. Though that position holds some allure for Ms. Mosteller, she says she loves her time in the classroom.

That passion hasn't gone unnoticed. Garland High School principal John Morris says, “She really connects with the students and always encourages them. She has the patience and poise to deal with every task. Nothing rattles her.”

And he's not the only one who recognizes her strengths. Ms. Mosteller recently won the regional WalMart Teacher of the Year Award, and is in the running at the state level.

The regional win earned Ms. Mosteller a \$1,000 prize.

“She may have already spent it all on classroom supplies,” Mr. Morris says. “That's what she does; it's all about the kids.”

Ms. Mosteller is typically humble about the accolades she has won. “I just hope people see I care for the kids, that I'm positive with them, and I get them to succeed in whatever I'm working with them on. That's what I'm there for,” she says.

Spoken like a deserving Garland ISD Teacher of the Month. Congratulations to Cindy Mosteller, whose dedication and passion for her profession show in everything she does.

teaching is coaching,” says Cindy Mosteller, Garland High School TAKS math teacher and girls' varsity softball coach – and Garland ISD Teacher of the Month.

After enjoying remarkable success both in the classroom and on the ball field, Ms. Mosteller says she has learned valuable lessons about teaching and coaching.

“Preparing for TAKS is just like preparing for game day. In the TAKS class, we don't think of it as a school year, but we build up for that test. That's our game day,” she says.

Teaching through coaching – and vice versa – has paid off for both Ms. Mosteller, her students, and her players. As TAKS math teacher, she gives seniors the extra help they need to pass the math portion of the TAKS test, required for graduation. Ms. Mosteller says she starts the year with about 100 students, and about 90 percent of those successfully complete the test each year.

On the softball field, the results have been equally impressive. She has taken the girls' softball team to the state level four times, and won back-to-back state championships in 2006 and 2007.

Though she is now a third-generation teacher, Ms. Mosteller says she started out in college planning on a career in nursing. “I decided against that after my first semester because of the strong emphasis on biology. I'm more of a math person,” she says. In her 17 years at Garland High school, she has taught Algebra I and the TAKS class, and started



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