

Group honors Baker teacher



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Eighth-grade English teacher Todd Moulder received a standing ovation Thursday at Baker Middle School. Seventh-grade students are Raymond Rodriguez, 12 (from left), Antonio Zuniga, 13, and Cole Dennis, 12.

■ **Educator**
1 of 15 to get
humanities
award

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Baker Middle School eighth-grade English teacher Todd Alan Moulder said education should honor all aspects of being human.

"It's not about reading a

passage and answering a multiple-choice test," he said during a ceremony honoring his work as an educator. "It's about communicating through dance and drama. It's about a beautiful story told well or a painting depicting the world in an unusual way. A good education is learning and growing with kids, inspiring them to

be innovative and intelligent and guiding them to achieve more than they thought they could."

Moulder was touted Thursday for portraying the ideals in his classroom.

He was honored as one of 15 recipients of the 2015

See TEACHER, 2B

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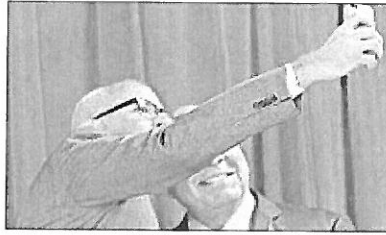
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Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award and received a standing ovation at the event for which the entire middle school squeezed into the cafeteria.

Moulder said he takes a workshop approach to teaching and encourages his class to participate in a variety of projects, which helps with engagement.

"It's very rarely me at the front," he said.

The esteemed award included a \$5,000 check from Humanities Texas, a nonprofit educational



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Todd Moulder (left) pulls out his smartphone to take a selfie with State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa.

organization, and Baker Principal John Dobbins accepted a \$500 check to be used for school materials.

Moulder is no stranger to

similar commendations.

In 2010, he was teacher of the year at Baker and Corpus Christi ISD honored him as the district's secondary teacher of the year.

The 24-year veteran teacher's nomination was among 450 submitted to the organization.

"You can't just be qualified, you have to be spectacular," said Sam Moore program officer for the organization.

Since 2001, two other local educators have been awarded the humanities award: Georgia Cox of Calellen East Elementary School and Sonia Adrian Noyola of Collegiate High School.

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