



TSTA NEWS

TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEA Vice President, TSTA President Visit Donna ISD on Thursday

Texas State Teachers Association President Rita Haecker will host National Education Association Vice President Lily Eskelsen during a Thursday, Sept. 17, visit to Donna Independent School District.

Eskelsen, an elementary school teacher from Utah, won election to the post in July 2008. Prior to that, she served two three-year terms as secretary-treasurer of the 3.2 million-member NEA.

Haecker, an elementary school teacher from Austin, became the 114th president of the oldest education organization in Texas last July. TSTA has 67,000 members. She previously served as a vice president of Education Austin, the local affiliate of TSTA/NEA in the state's capital city.

"The face of America is changing. But one thing will not change. It hasn't changed for over 200 years. Public education will continue to be the key — la llave a la puerta de la oportunidad. Everything hinges on public education because NEA's mission is to take all children, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, income, language, skills or ability or disability; we take all children and give them the keys to the doors they might want to open," Eskelsen said.

"Too many young Texans in the Rio Grande Valley are dropping out of school, so we're going to Donna ISD to underscore TSTA/NEA's commitment to do all we can to keep our minority children in school and ensure that they succeed," Haecker said.

"We also want to show our support for education support professionals who are vital to strong schools and strong communities. ESPs play critical roles in educating our children and in encouraging the parental involvement that is necessary for student success," Haecker continued.

Eskelsen and Haecker will hold a news conference with Donna ISD Superintendent Roberto F. Loreda at 4 p.m. Thursday in the School Board Room of the district administration building at 904 Hester Ave.

The two leaders will participate in a reading activity at 9 a.m. at M. Rivas Elementary, 503 S. Hutto Road. This event is also available for news coverage.

The NEA vice president and the TSTA president will meet with the leaders of local affiliates in Donna, Harlingen, Mercedes and San Benito on Wednesday evening and will have lunch with school employees at D.M. Saucedo Middle School in Donna on Thursday.

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