



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 31, 2011

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## **4-Year Old to Present Commissioner Robert Scott with Texas Pre-k Champion Award at TECEC Gala Dinner**

**(Austin, TX)** – Nearly 300 early education leaders will join together to honor Texas Education Agency Commissioner Robert Scott for his support of high quality pre-k reform programs at the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) Gala Fundraising Dinner on January 31, 2011 at The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.

Four-year old Emiliano Guerrero was selected among hundreds of his peers to present the Commissioner with the Texas Pre-k Champion Award, a Texas-themed piece of artwork drawn by Emiliano himself. Emiliano will be joined by his parents, as well as his teacher and principal from Lucy Read Pre-kindergarten Demonstration School.

### **The evening will include the following program:**

- 7:00pm Welcome by Kara Johnson, President and CEO of TECEC
- 7:15pm Remarks by Senator Judith Zaffirini
- 7:30pm Remarks by Representative Mark Strama
- 7:40pm Remarks by Bill Hammond, President and CEO of the Texas Association of Business
- 7:45pm Commissioner Robert Scott Presented Award and Provides Comments
- 8:00pm Closing by Susan Hoff, Board Chair of TECEC

### **Quotes from Texas Leaders:**

“The Coalition is honored to present Commissioner Robert Scott with the Texas Pre-k Champion Award” said **Kara Johnson, President and CEO of the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition**. “Under the Commissioner’s leadership, more than 100,000 preschoolers have entered reform classrooms leading to an accountable pre-k system where children are entering kindergarten school ready,” she added.

“The Texas Association of Business is proud to be a pre-k champion because we believe in reforms that reflect Texas’ commitment to prosperity and economic growth. Key among those are the pre-k reforms implemented on Commissioner Robert Scott’s watch,” said **Bill Hammond, President and CEO of the Texas Association of Business**. “Through TEA’s reformed pre-k grant, we’ve transformed teacher behavior in the classroom by focusing them on activities proven to prepare children for academic success. And, we’re requiring them to demonstrate strong accountability for results,” he added.

**TECEC Gala Sponsors:** Brewer Educational Resources, Early Care and Education Consortium, Hatch Early Childhood, H-E-B, IBM, Imagine Learning, Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lakeshore Learning Materials, National Educational Systems, Inc., OZ Systems, Pearson, Scholastic, School Specialty, Teaching Strategies, and Teachscape.

**TECEC Gala Information:**

**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2011

**Gala Dinner Time:** 6:15pm-8:30pm

**Gala Dinner Location:** Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress Avenue (intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.)

Map: <http://www.thestoryoftexas.com/special/location.html>

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*The Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) represents more than 350 member organizations and 6,000 individuals dedicated to building a high quality early childhood education and development system for children ages birth to five.*