

EXEMPLARY MENTOR / COOPERATING TEACHER AWARD
Perkins College of Education
Stephen F. Austin State University

During the spring and fall semesters, the Perkins College of Education recognizes cooperating teachers who exhibit exemplary supervision of teacher candidates in clinical teaching or exemplary mentoring through exceptional guidance and support during this process. Cooperating teachers are eligible to be nominated for the award only during the semester in which they are actively guiding student teachers.

Cooperating teachers/mentors can be nominated by their teacher candidates as well as by SFA faculty who have witnessed their work. Exemplary supervision of student teachers would include going above and beyond typical expectations in order to support the student's growth as an educator, implementing innovation in supervisory techniques, exemplary communication and feedback, and the success of the supervised students. As such, considerations for nominations include but are not limited to execution of the duties listed in the SFA cooperating teacher/mentor handbook:

- Sharing pertinent information and appropriately guiding the student teacher, including scaffolding learning through gradual release of responsibility in the classroom.
- Mentoring the students in developing strategies to independently and effectively develop lesson plans.
- Supporting the teacher candidate in observing, analyzing, questioning, planning, and teaching lessons during the student teaching experience.
- Remaining in the classroom to monitor and support the student teacher at the appropriate level.
- Guiding the student teacher to think critically and reflectively about lessons taught.
- Providing specific, constructive feedback for the purpose of professional growth.
- Completing all required paperwork, forms and training required by SFA in a timely manner.
- Taking teacher candidate concerns quite seriously by realizing and responding in a way that indicates that while a question or problem that could seem trivial to an experienced educator is new ground for teacher candidates.
- Nurturing self-sufficiency by utilizing personal teaching experiences to encourage confidence and independent thinking.
- Helping students develop professionalism by providing specific praise points as well as constructive feedback.
- Involving teacher candidates in grade level planning

Nominations must be submitted by **November 20** of the fall semester or **April 15** for the spring semester via Qualtrics survey.