



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Contact: Christian Acevedo, Director of Outreach & Communications

512.463.7998 | [christian.acevedo@thgc.texas.gov](mailto:christian.acevedo@thgc.texas.gov)

## **TEXAS HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2021 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD WINNER**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** – The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2021 Friends of THGC Dr. Anna Steinberger Outstanding Texas Educator Award of \$1,000 is Mrs. Sarah Palmer from Morton Ranch High School in Katy, Texas. Palmer was notified at a celebratory dinner in Houston, Texas on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Having worked at Morton Ranch High School since 2014, Palmer has taught World Geography and currently teaches Modern United States History and Engines of Change through History, a special topics course designed by Holocaust Museum Houston. After attending training from the museum in 2019, she helped implement the course as part of her campus curriculum. The course was later approved for integration throughout the district.

Palmer's commitment to following best practices in teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides was clearly noted in her application. Asked about her biggest challenge in teaching about the Holocaust and/or genocides, she writes, "Instead of statistics, I utilize personal stories to ensure I am telling his and her story instead of dehumanizing the victims like the Nazis [did]." Palmer's 2001 master's thesis on how survivors process traumatic memory was completed under the supervision of a Holocaust survivor.

The Friends of THGC invited Palmer and her spouse to dinner on August 1<sup>st</sup> to accept her monetary award and to celebrate her dedication to Holocaust education. In her acceptance speech to members of Friends, the THGC, and its staff, Palmer said, "I am just very grateful for this new relationship that I now have with the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and all of your efforts to support teachers."

Dr. Steinberger, the award's namesake, is a Holocaust survivor and served as a founding member of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission. She retired from teaching at the University of Texas Medical School in 2001, but has continued to demonstrate a commitment to Holocaust and genocide education in Texas.

*-more-*

Aside from several applicants from Central Texas, this year's contest drew others from as far north as Honey Grove and as far east as Katy. The THGC is excited to see educators from throughout the state devoted to teaching their students about these subjects.

The THGC is committed to supporting efforts to teach the next generation about the Holocaust and/or genocides in the Ottoman Empire, Cambodia, Rwanda, the Balkans, Darfur, and the Middle East. This is the fifth year that the Friends of THGC has presented a monetary award of \$1,000 to an educator demonstrating a record of excellence in engaging any of the aforementioned subjects with Texas students in grades 6-12. Not only are classroom teachers eligible, but curriculum coordinators and librarians are also encouraged to apply.

The Dr. Anna Steinberger Outstanding Texas Educator Award is facilitated by the Friends of Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, a 501(c)3 non-profit. The Friends of THGC, along with THGC commissioners and staff, congratulate Mrs. Palmer and thank all educators who participated in this year's contest. Their important work helps support the THGC's mission of increased Holocaust and genocide awareness.

*The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission is a state commission that was established to bring awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides to Texas students, educators, and the general public by ensuring availability of resources.*

###

If you would like more information about this contest and the winner, please contact Christian Acevedo at 512.463.7998 or [christian.acevedo@thgc.texas.gov](mailto:christian.acevedo@thgc.texas.gov). Please feel free to visit our website <https://thgc.texas.gov/> to learn more about the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and its mission.