Tarleton Stars is an award given to current and past Tarleton students based on recognition for outstanding contributions in the classroom. Administrators, faculty members and ESP members are all eligible to nominate candidates for this award. Nominations for 2016 must be submitted to Dr. James Gentry, JESP Editor and received by December 1st, 2015.

2015 Tarleton Stars Recipients

Jennifer Harrist     Victor Sauceda     Olivia Woods

During her first year teaching at Jane Long Middle School (JLMS) in Bryan ISD, Bryan, Texas, Jennifer Harrist quickly noticed the large number of students who remained on campus after the final bell (often getting into mischief) as well as those who shared with her their challenging home life. With the aid of JLMS Principal Lindsay Harris, she helped organize representative focus groups and, with the Sequor Youth Development Initiative through Texas A&M University, found a significant interest in an after-school program.

The Jane Long Afterschool Program (JLAP) is a partnership between JLMS, Texas A&M University, and the City of Bryan to provide positive after school experiences that engage JLMS youth in supportive peer-to-peer and youth-to-adult relationships, allow them to explore post-secondary options through recreationally based activities, and equip them with pro-social competencies to prepare for lifelong success.

Jennifer serves as the co-coordinator of JLAP and the JLMS faculty lead. Her responsibilities include deliverable distribution to faculty and students, coordination of faculty leadership team, oversight of programming and activities, and student liaison.

All of these qualities place Jennifer proudly as a Tarleton STAR.
Olivia Woods grew up in Marble Falls, Texas with her parents and younger sister. There, she developed a love of education as she observed her family teaching students of all ages. However, it was participating in the MFHS PALS program where she discovered her true passion: teaching special education. From 2010 to 2014, Ms. Woods attended Tarleton State University. While there, she studied at the College of Education, worked for Texans 4 Texans Tutoring Services and took part in an undergraduate research study. This study focused on the retelling of children’s literature through iMovie and green screen technology.

On December 13, 2014, Ms. Woods graduated from Tarleton with a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies and a focus in special education. She also acquired the following teaching certifications for the state of Texas: Generalist (Grades EC-6), Special Education (Grades EC-12), and English as a Second Language Supplemental (Grades EC-12). Presently, Ms. Woods is substitute teaching, working for an after school program and preparing to teach an academic summer camp. Her current goal in life is to find a permanent teaching position for the upcoming school year.

Congratulations Olivia, a true Tarleton STAR.

Victor Sauceda has served as an education professional in Granbury ISD and Stephenville ISD for over 10 years as a teacher, district coordinator, and campus administrator. Mr. Sauceda demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and concern for students. He is very committed to upholding the vision and mission of Stephenville High School and strives to contribute to the success of all Stephenville High School students and the Stephenville community.

Victor was born in Chihuahua, Mexico and graduated from Tarleton State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sports Studies. In December of 2008, he graduated from Tarleton State University with a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction. His continued focus since his first year in education has been to contribute to the success of English Language Learners and increasing parent involvement with schools, specially with families of different sub-populations.

His dedication to being the best educator he can be makes Victor a true Tarleton STAR.