



**For Immediate Release**

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**Uplift Education honors local legislators with Champion for Education Award**  
*Public charter school network's 750 employees celebrate 2011-12 school year kickoff*

**DALLAS (August 12)** – Uplift Education presented Texas Senator Florence Shapiro and Texas Representative Linda Harper-Brown with its inaugural Champion for Education award on Monday, August 8 as part of its annual Convocation event. The fun and inspiring event brings together Uplift Education's 750 employees, including school leaders, teachers and staff from its 20 schools, for a motivational kickoff around the organization's priorities for the year, honor its highest performing teachers and introduce its newest schools for 2011-12.

Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne, whose two children attend Uplift Education's North Hills Preparatory in Irving, provided a keynote address highlighting the importance of Uplift's work to the Irving community and encouraging teachers to continue their passionate work toward preparing students for college.

Following Mayor Van Duyne's address, she and Uplift Education's Founder, Advocacy and Growth, Rosemary Perlmeter, were joined on stage by Senator Shapiro and Representative Harper-Brown. The legislators were presented with artwork from Uplift students and a crystal award in honor of their dedication to public education in Texas and their specific efforts around championing efforts during the most recent session of the Texas Legislature toward changing the law to allow high-performing public charter schools access to Texas' Permanent School Fund.

The Senator introduced the original bill to extend the state's Permanent School Fund (PSF) bond guarantee to financially sound charter schools to help them construct and renovate public school buildings and lobbied her senate colleagues for their support of the funding mechanism. State Representative Linda Harper Brown took up the reins in the special session over the summer to ensure the goal of Senator Shapiro's Permanent School Fund bill by tacking the legislation on as an amendment to Senate Bill 1 and overseeing its passage through the House.

The new law extends the state's Permanent School Fund (PSF) bond guarantee to financially sound charter schools to help them construct and renovate public school buildings. Allowing charters schools to have access to the Permanent School Fund helps

them meet growing demand, helps direct taxpayer money back into the classrooms, and costs nothing to the state.

**<<Photo attachment (L-R): Rosemary Perlmeter, Mayor Beth Van Duyne, Texas Senator Florence Shapiro, Texas Representative Linda Harper-Brown, Yasmin Bhatia>>**

***About Uplift Education:***

Uplift Education is a network of tuition-free, college-preparatory, public charter schools that provide a rigorous, multi-disciplinary curriculum, with an emphasis on college preparation – **100% of seniors are accepted to college**. Uplift educates more than 5,700 students across its 20 schools in Dallas, Arlington and Irving. Uplift Education is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit [www.uplifteducation.org](http://www.uplifteducation.org) or [www.facebook.com/uplifteducation](http://www.facebook.com/uplifteducation).