

Submit via U.S. Mail or email the completed

- Nomination form (mandatory)
- Narrative statement or Letter of Recommendation (mandatory)
- Resume/Bio (mandatory)
- Other Supporting materials

All mandatory materials must be submitted, to be considered.

E-mail questions to:

Jackie.schuessler-kimsey@houstontx.gov

Mail to:

City of Houston
Attn: Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey (MHHA)
901 Bagby, 3rd floor
Houston, Texas 77002

Deadline: Postmarked by **August 10, 2020**

Or complete online at:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/specialevents/hispanicheritage.html>

To whom it may concern:

It is my honor and pleasure to introduce to you Mrs. Maria Elena Galan. For the past 25 years, Mrs. Galan has been living and working in Houston public schools as an elementary educator. In and beyond the classroom, she has worked tirelessly as a public servant, a volunteer, an activist for the Latinx community, and an athletics coach and coordinator. Mrs. Galan has poured her heart out into the youth of inner city Houston in order to help them grow roots and bloom to become productive citizens in our community.

Over the course of 25 years, Mrs. Galan has volunteered her time and formed countless teams in which she dedicated herself to teaching life skills through various sports including baseball, softball, basketball and soccer. These skills instilled a sense of self-esteem, courage, and the knowledge of what it means to be a champion on and off the field. Through sports programming she provided students and families with meaningful ways to promote both mental and physical health and well being. Many of her teams won championships but even her athletes that were not winners on the field came off the field with something even more valuable: positivity, perseverance, personal growth and the ability to be a team player!

Additionally, Mrs. Galan has worked extensively with bilingual families to make sure they have the resources they need to help their children at home with their school work. Sometimes this meant talking to parents late at night or delivering school supplies to families in need. She facilitates evening parent workshops and opportunities for families to learn together as a unit. Her classroom is full of hands-on activities that extends educational opportunities to all different types of learners with the flexibility to address their many different needs. She has sacrificed countless weekends with her own family to take students on field trips in the community so that they could have more life experiences in order to make connections in the classroom. Mrs. Galan puts relationship-building as the highest priority when teaching her students.

To name all that Mrs. Galan has done to lead the youth of Houston would be too long of a list but the following are a few highlights. She has taken groups of students to participate in Books Alive at the Houston Public Library and entered her students in many contests. She has partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department. to bring soccer and baseball programs to her campus so that more kids can be exposed to sports. She has spoken and volunteered in Title I schools, churches, and public events. Finally, in the recent coronavirus outbreak, Mrs. Galan secured bilingual resources for her families so that they could get the personal protective equipment and educational materials they needed during the pandemic. In the recent summer months she volunteered her time to host a special Zoom class informing Latinx families and youth about masking up, testing, and self-care.

Mrs. Galan embodies the phrase she lives by: "Sí Se Puede!" She has overcome many obstacles as a Latina educator in Houston and has truly paved the way for the upcoming generation to rise up and change our city and our world into a better place! Her impact made is as big as her heart! Sí Se Puede!

Warmly,

Vanessa DeYoung
Art Educator, Houston ISD

María Elena Galán
219 Andorra Lane
Houston, TX 77015
832-212-7972
mertgalan@gmail.com

Bilingual Elementary School Teacher

Dedicated, resourceful, and goal-driven professional educator with a solid commitment to the social and academic growth and development of every student. An accommodating and versatile individual with the talent to develop hands-on lessons that will capture children's imaginations and lead to success.

Areas of Teaching Proficiency Include the Following:

- Differentiated Instruction.
- Classroom Management.
- Cooperative Learning.
- Work Stations.
- Student Motivation.
- Interactive Learning.
- Student-Centered Learning.
- Assessment Tools.
- Parental Involvement
- Currency in Educational Technology, Software, and Applications.
- Interscholastic Sports Coaching.

Education and Certifications

Elementary Bilingual, Grades 1-8, Texas Teacher Certification
Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), Grades 1-8, Texas Teacher Certification
Spanish, Grades 1-8, Texas Teacher Certification
Gifted and Talented Certification
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education-University of Houston
Intensive English Program-Houston Community College
Bachelor of Science in Engineering-Facultad de Ingenieria Mecanica y Electrica,
U.A.N.L. Mexico
Bachelor of Arts in English-Facultad de Filosofia y Letras Centro de Idiomas, U.A.N.L. Mexico
Soccer Coach License "F"-South Texas Youth Soccer Association

Professional Teaching Experience

Cimarron Elementary, Galena Park ISD	4 th , 5 th Grades, Bilingual, Dual Language	08/16-present
Scroggins Elementary, Houston ISD	1 st , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Grades, Bilingual	08/08-05/16
Eliot Elementary, Houston ISD	Kdgn, 1 st , 2 nd Grades, Bilingual	8/95-5/08
Universidad Regiomontana	Computer Classes	1991

Recognitions

My classroom has served as a model for educational excellence on several occasions and I have received numerous recognitions:

School Year 2012 – 2013:

- Chief School Officer Dr. Samuel Sarabia and School Support Officer Thuy Le-Thai visited my classroom with my Principal San Juana Elizondo to show teachers how I implement differentiated instruction, hands-on, concrete activities, word walls, data tracking, learner grouping and intervention.
- Principal Aguilar of Sherman Elementary visited to highlight these same qualities of my classroom as well as my data management system.

School Year 2011 – 2012:

- Chief School Officer Dr. Samuel Sarabia requested photos of my classroom for the purpose of distribution to teachers in other elementary schools.
 - During the in-service "Spotlight on Instruction – Math," Teacher Development Specialists highlighted my classroom as a model for differentiation in math.
 - School Support Officer Imelda De La Guardia brought a neighboring school's principal to show how I implement differentiated instruction, hands-on, concrete activities, word walls, data tracking, learner grouping, and intervention.
 - Teacher Development Specialists presented my classroom's differentiated instruction, word walls, data tracking, and learner grouping to other teachers as a model of educational excellence.
- Familias Latinas Cover Magazine– 2014

Recognitions from Galena Park ISD

Perfect Attendance 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2019-2020

Teacher of the Month Nov. 2019

Cimarron Award May 2018-2019

Power to Perseverance Award in Memory of Clarence Smith 2017-2018

ACE Award 2018-2019

2014 Christa McAuliffe In Search of Excellence Award –Houston West Chamber of Commerce

City of Houston Award National Bilingual Teacher of the Year (2014)

NABE National Bilingual Teacher of the Year (2014)

TABE Texas Bilingual Teacher of the Year NABE Representative (2014)

TABE Texas Bilingual Teacher of the Year Runner-Up (2013)

HAABE Houston Bilingual Teacher of the Year (2012-2013)

HAABE Houston Bilingual Teacher of the Year Houston Independent School District Winner (2012-2013)

HAABE Houston Bilingual Teacher of the Year Chief of Schools Winner (2012-2013)

3-Time Bilingual Teacher of the Year of Scroggins Elementary School (2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2012-2013)

2-Time Bilingual Teacher of the Year of Eliot Elementary School (2003-2004 and 2004-2005)

Houston ISD Northeast Region Teacher of the Year for (2004-2005)

Houston ISD Northeast District Superintendent Award (2001)

Language Proficiency Assessment Committee -Principal's Award–Scroggins (2010-2013)

Shared Decision Making Committee- Principal's Award–Scroggins (2009-2012)

Service and Dedication Awards to Scroggins Students - (2008-2012)

Boys Scouts of America Pack 1072 Community Partnership Award (2001)

Soccer Recognition- Houston Dynamo (2011, 2012)

Soccer Coach Principal's Award – Eliot (2008)

Service and Dedication Principal's Award -Eliot (1995-2008)

Language Proficiency Assessment Committee -Principal's Award–Scroggins (2004-2008)

Eastwood Community Award -City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (2005-2006)
 Soccer Coach of the Year -Soccer Eliot Parents (1996-1997, 1999, 2004)
 Shared Decision Making Committee- Principal's Award—Eliot (2003-2004)
 Soccer Coach of the Year – City of Houston (2000-2004)
 Box Tops for Education Outstanding Collection Award-Eliot (2000-2003)
 "Career Choices"- Liaison City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (2002)
 "Reading as a Recreational Experience" –Liaison City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department (2002)
 Community Enrichment Award –City of Houston and SPARK (2002)

Affiliations

Scroggins Mighty Bees Sports Club	Coach	2008-Present
Scroggins Site Decision Meeting Committee	Member	2002-2004, 2009-present
Houston Area Association for Bilingual Educators	Member	2013
Texas Association for Bilingual Educators	Member	2013
National Association for Bilingual Educators	Member	2013
After -School Interscholastic Sports (4 Sports)	Coach	2008-present
Eliot Grade Level Committee	Chairperson	2003-2004
Eliot Reading Club	Coordinator	2002-2004
Language Proficiency Assessment Committee	Member	2002-present
Houston Park and Recreation Department	School Liaison	1995-present
Eliot Eagles Soccer Club for Mothers and Students	Coach	1995-2008

Schuessler-Kimsey, Jackie - MYR

From: vanessa Deyoung <vanessadeyoung@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Schuessler-Kimsey, Jackie - MYR
Subject: Hispanic Heritage Awards
Attachments: 2020-MHHA-Application - Galan.pdf; Letter of Recommendation - Galan.pdf; RESUME - Galan.pdf

[Message Came from Outside the City of Houston Mail System]

Greetings Ms. Schuessler-Kimsey!

I am submitting the attached nomination materials on behalf of Maria Elena Galan.

Have a great day!

Vanessa DeYoung