

# 2016 TBA Prestigious Honors



**Bob Parsons**  
**Bandmaster of the Year**

Bob Parsons retired in 2002 after a 35-year career as a Texas band director. He served most recently as the head director at West Ridge Middle School in the Eanes ISD in Austin. His career spans three decades of active involvement in music education in Texas, having taught in widely different types of schools: rural schools both small and large—New Diana and Jacksonville in East Texas and an urban private school—Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas. Bob was an assistant director at Richardson High School and a middle school director at West Ridge Middle School in the Eanes ISD in Austin. He has received many honors over the years including the 2005 TBA Meritorious Achievement Award, election to the American Bandmasters Association in 2006 and induction to the 2012 Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. Mr. Parsons is active as a clinician, adjudicator and conductor of numerous region bands and honor groups. He has served in several offices of TMEA and on special committees of the UIL.



**Kerry Taylor**  
**Meritorious Achievement Award**

Kerry Taylor currently serves as Director of Bands for Westlake High School. He is also the Fine Arts Director for Eanes Independent School District. Mr. Taylor is in his 34th year as a band director in Texas public schools—five years in Katy ISD and 29 in Eanes ISD. Under Mr. Taylor's direction, the Westlake High School Band has received numerous awards and performed for many groups across the country. He is active as a clinician and adjudicator in Texas and across the U.S. He has served many professional memberships including the Texas Music Educators Association in many positions including Vice-President of the Band Division (2002-04) and as President (2005-06).



**Denny Whitley**  
**Meritorious Achievement Award**

Denny Whitley recently completed his 45th year as a High School Band Director with the past 27 years being at Whitehouse ISD. Prior to this appointment, he worked at Timpson and Clarksville High Schools. In 1989, when summer band started at Whitehouse High School, there were only 39 students signed up for the high school band. The band program grew more and more. This past year the Whitehouse ISD program consisted of 240 6th graders, 314 7th & 8th graders, and 285 in the high school band. Under the direction of Denny, the Wildcat Band received numerous awards including superior ratings in Marching Contest for 25 years and the Sweepstakes Award for 22 years. All of Whitley's band students, both former and current, are very special to him. There are several who have followed in his footsteps and have made teaching music their profession and he is proud of every one of them.



**John Whitwell**  
**Meritorious Achievement Award**

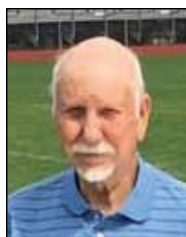
John L. Whitwell is Director of Bands Emeritus at Michigan State University, where he served as Director of Bands, Conductor of the Wind Symphony, Professor of Music, Chair of the Conducting area, and guided the graduate degree programs in Wind Conducting prior to his retirement in 2006. Prior to his appointment at Michigan State University, Professor Whitwell held positions at Stephen F. Austin State University and Abilene Christian University in Texas. He also taught in the public schools of Michigan as band director at Ann Arbor Huron and Northwest Jackson high schools. His bands have performed for the College Band Directors National Association Convention, TMEA Clinic-Convention, The Midwest Clinic, and Midwestern Conference on Vocal and Instrumental Music. He is a member of the Board of Directors of The Midwest Clinic, past-president of the Big Ten Band Directors Association, and past-president of the North Central Division of the College Band Directors National Association.

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**Peter J. Warshaw**  
**Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award**

Peter J. Warshaw is the Fine Arts Director for Leander ISD. Under his leadership, Leander ISD fine arts programs annually present district-wide events showcasing the work of student artists and performers. Previously, Mr. Warshaw served as the Coordinator of Fine Arts in Bryan ISD and the Director of Bands at J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas from 1993-2002. In 2014, Mr. Warshaw was named Music Administrator of the Year by the Texas Music Administrators Conference. He is a life member of the International Percy Grainger Society and received the Grainger Medallion in 1998, in recognition of his distinctive contribution to the music of Percy Grainger. Mr. Warshaw is a frequent presenter at TMEA, TBA, CEDFA, The Midwest Clinic, and the Sam Houston State University Center for Music Education as well as serving as a guest lecturer in music education and in sociology at Sam Houston State University and The University of Texas at Austin.



**Darrell Jarvis**  
**Music Industry Award**

Jarvis Industries was started over 30 years ago in Darrell Jarvis' garage. While serving on the Westfield High School Band Boosters for his son, Jarvis saw the need for a podium better than their currently used heavy plywood box. Going back into his aircraft engineering roots at Boeing Co. and Cessna Aircraft, he designed a light-weight, portable, all aluminum marching band podium. Through the years, Jarvis Industries, Inc. has grown into a company with over a dozen full-time employees and offers a wide variety of products specifically designed for the marching band industry. They offer over six different model podiums, a six-wheel fold-up Utility Band Wagon and Percussion Platform, and the Scissor-lift Podium. Jarvis Industries, Inc. prides itself on providing a big business product with a small business customer service style.



**North Lamar High School Band**  
**Paris, Texas**  
**Randy Jones, Director of Bands**  
**Exemplary High School Band**

The North Lamar High School Band was founded in 1973 by Dave Hammer with 25 students. Currently, the band has 380 students in grades 6-12. The goal of the band program is to prepare students to live and work successfully in a changing world. The marching band has earned 24 years of consecutive 1st division ratings at UIL Marching Contest and has advanced to the UIL State Marching Contest four times. The Symphonic and Concert Bands have also consistently earned awards including UIL Sweepstakes awards, "Best in Class", top OPS award, and named a National Winner in the Mark of Excellence competition. The Symphonic Band was named the TMEA 3A State Honor Band in 2010 and placed 3rd in 2014. The North Lamar High School Band is under the direction of Randy Jones, Jason Smith and Roderick Boyce. Randy Jones has been at North Lamar for 30 years and has served as Director of Bands from 1987 to the present. He was named NLISD Secondary Teacher of the Year in 2011 and has served as Fine Arts Director for the past 15 years.



**R.S. Kimbrough Middle School**  
**Mesquite ISD**  
**Chris Brown, Director**  
**Exemplary Middle School Band**

R.S. Kimbrough Middle School opened in 1993 and is named after Robert Snead Kimbrough who was known at the turn of the century in Mesquite as the "Town's Father." One of the hallmarks of the school has been the cooperative spirit among the coaches, directors, and sponsors of the different organizations which allows students the opportunity to excel in more than one activity. The Fine Arts program at Kimbrough has enjoyed much success throughout the school's history—Band, Choir and Orchestra programs have all been consistent UIL Sweepstakes winners. One of the greatest accomplishments of the Kimbrough band program is the outstanding success the students achieve in the Poteet High School Band which was named the TBA Exemplary High School Band Program in 2009. This year marks the first time in the award's history that both a high school and a middle school feeder have been recipients of this TBA award.