

TBA Bandmaster of the Year 2021

Keith Bearden

Professor Bearden began his Texas musical career in Hale Center where his role model and director was Mr. J.W. King. He made the Texas All State Band three years on trumpet. He was a regular attendee of the Texas Tech Band/Orchestra camp from the 6th grade through high school. After high school, he earned his bachelor and masters degrees from Texas Tech University. His mentors were Mr. Dean Killion, director and Richard Tolley, trumpet professor.

Upon graduation, he accepted the band director position at Jayton and, after one year, was drafted into the military. He chose to audition and was selected for the USAF Academy Band. He would later become section leader of the concert band and a member of the Falconaires Jazz Ensemble. Following his completion of military service, he enjoyed six successful years of public-school teaching in Albany and Lubbock Monterey. His bands were consistent winners in concert, marching, and jazz, on both state and national levels.

In 1979, Professor Bearden was honored by Phi Beta Mu as Texas' Outstanding Young Bandmaster. He was appointed associate director of bands and director of the Texas Tech "Goin' Band from Raiderland" in 1980. In addition to his duties with the marching and basketball bands, he conducted the University Symphonic

Band, played in the Faculty Brass Quintet, taught conducting/music education classes, and co-directed the Texas Tech summer music camps.

During his distinguished tenure at Texas Tech University, Professor



Bearden was honored as Outstanding Faculty Member by Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board. The "Goin' Band from Raiderland" received the Sudler Trophy in 1999, the nation's highest award for collegiate marching bands. Other honors include the TTU School of Music Distinguished Alumni Award, the TTU Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, and the Kappa and Kappa Psi's Distinguished Service to Music Medal.

Bearden was named Professor Emeritus in 2004. During the same year, he was recognized with the TBA Meritorious Achievement Award and in 2013 was inducted into the Bandmasters Hall of Fame. He was the

recipient of the Al G. Wright award presented by Women Band Directors International at The Midwest Clinic in 1999.

Bearden is past president of Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter, International Phi Beta Mu, and the Texas Music Adjudicators Association. He is an adjudicator and clinician throughout the United States. He is a board member of the World Association of Marching Show Bands and has judged in Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Brazil, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Canada, and the Philippines. Professor Bearden currently serves as the executive secretary for Region 16 and Area A. With the help of friends and Phi Beta Mu members across Texas, he has facilitated getting uniforms, method books, instruments, reeds, mouthpieces, and percussion equipment to bands in Brazil, Uruguay, and Ireland.

He is married to June Bearden, who recently retired as band director with Frenship ISD. They have two sons and four grandchildren. The Beardens enjoy travel, classic cars, concerts, and enjoy spending time outdoors.

***Professor Keith Bearden
will speak at the
TBA Active & Retired Members
Luncheon and
Business Meeting
on Saturday, July 24.***