

Susan Wind, a THS technology specialist (shown at left), was honored July 14 as the **Technology Support Specialist of the Year** by the Texas Business and Technology Educators Association (TBTEA). Mrs. Wind, employed ten years by TISD, was the first recipient of the award from the renowned educator organization. Also, Barbara Leschber (shown on right) was named the **Secondary Education Teacher of the Year**. Barbara has been employed by Taylor ISD for 38 years and in her career has taught English, business, and career courses. She is currently the THS career preparation coop coordinator.

In Mrs. Leschber's nomination, peers noted her dedication to the classroom, to TISD, and the field of education. "She is mentor to new teachers and a colleague to the many friends in educational and community organizations, but at her core, she is a nurturing parent, a life-long learner and a life-long educator."

Mrs. Leschber's classroom displays decades of awards earned by teens in competitions she has coached and advised. There is no finer tribute than having successful and professional adults return to tell her how much she has impacted their lives. This is a continual recurrence.

In her "speaker series," Barbara has returned the community to the classroom to educate students in careers including finance, law, global business, manufacturing, banking, marketing, health, politics and social work.

PRESENTING AWARDS -- *Mrs Kimberly Mason, Director of the Career and Technology Education program at Taylor High attended the awards presentation and congratulated Mrs. Leschber for her years of dedication to the district. (Photo by Sue Lawson)*

"Barbara Leschber brings relevance to the classroom, and does not sugar-coat the harsh reality and possible danger in the world that awaits our graduates. In May, 2009, she arranged for Beth Holloway, mother of Natalee Holloway, to visit our somber auditorium full of teens. The horror of Natalee Holloway's disappearance in Aruba was a wake up call that Barbara gave to over 800 THS students that day in May," noted another colleague who nominated her for the award.

At the awards presentation, Lucy Ybarra, State Director for TEA's Business Management, Business Administration, Finance and Marketing personally thanked Barbara for her assistance in training new teachers and veteran teachers the complexity of the new TEKS standards that will be implemented in August, 2010. "Barbara's tireless energy and dedication to the teachers of Texas, and all our children and grandchildren, are greatly appreciated."