

## **Austin Aspires and Human Rights Commission Bright Spots Award**

### ***Purpose of Bright Spots Award***

The mission of the Human Rights Commission is to cultivate a just and inclusive community where diversity is valued and human rights are respected. As a welcoming community, our goal is to bring residents together in a spirit of unity, to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone. The vision of Austin Aspires is that Austin will be recognized as a leader in education with a culture of educational excellence, cradle to career, embraced in every aspect of our community. In addition, we have the aspirational goal that our community will address social, emotional, mental and physical barriers to success for all learners.

Therefore, we are pleased to co-sponsor the Austin Bright Spots Award. Recipients of the “Bright Spots” award are teachers, community members, organizations, or businesses who demonstrate commitment to students in Austin. Recipients will be nominated and selected by the Austin Aspires Student Advisory Board consisting of High School students from Austin Public and Pacelli Catholic Schools.

A “Bright Spots” recipient is a person/business/organization who demonstrates:

- Compassion and availability – shows care and concern, engaged and accessible
- Support and inspiration – provides encouragement or emotional help
- Welcome and approachability - reacts to students with enjoyment and approval, friendly and easy to talk to



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### *Protocol*

Date	Action
October - December	Students nominate at Student Advisory Board meetings each month  Austin Aspires staff will collate the nominations and create “blind” selection forms
January	Students will vote on nominations. Students will select “winners” based on description of the candidate rather than the name  Austin Aspires staff will “vet” student selected recipients
February	Students will be informed of award recipients
March	Recipients will be invited to attend SAB meeting to receive certificate. If this is not possible, alternate arrangements will be made for informal presentation
April	Formal recognition at beginning of City Council meeting will take place in April with a statement to the council and presentation of a trophy (and gift?)  Media will be informed by press release

Intended outcome is to have 6 award winners.

- 2 from APS
- 1 from Pacelli
- 1 from Riverland
- 1 community member
- 1 business/organization



## Austin Aspires and Human Rights Commission Bright Spots Award



*Please answer the following three questions about why you believe your nominee should receive the Austin Aspires Bright Spot Award. A “Bright Spots” award winner should be a teacher, coach, community member, organization or business. This award recipient should show commitment to students in Austin by demonstrating compassion, availability, counsel, support and who are welcoming and approachable. This can be a person who has impacted you personally, or someone who you see making an impact on many students.*

Name of Nominee:

School/Business/Organization:

Name of Nominating Student:

**How has this person/organization/business encouraged or inspired you?**

**How has this person/organization/business been available or shown compassion to you?**

**How has this person/organization/business been welcoming or approachable?**