

For Immediate Release

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Dr. Jerry Maze, Executive Director of Education Service Center (ESC) Region 12 in Waco, Texas has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Peter C. Young Service Award by the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA). The award was presented at the AESA's Summer Leadership Conference.

The award recognizes an individual for extensive service leadership in advancement of educational service agencies at the regional, state or national level.

Maze said he was surprised and delighted to receive the award, especially since Peter Young was one of the first people he met when he began his career with educational service agencies.

"When I look at the list of previous winners of this award, I am so proud to be associated with such an amazing group of distinguished leaders," said Maze. "It is very humbling."

Maze has been active with AESA for years, serving on the Executive Council from 2012-2018 and as Council President from 2015-17. He is currently a member of the Perspectives Editorial Board and president of the Foundation Board. He is a graduate of the Executive in Residence program and in 2010 received the E. Robert Stephens Award, which recognizes research, writing and publication that advances the understanding of educational service agencies.

Maze became Executive Director of ESC Region 12 in 2011. Before that, he worked as a teacher and then school district administrator, serving as Superintendent of the Hillsboro and Hubbard Independent School Districts (ISDs). The education leader began his career in his hometown as a teacher in Livingston ISD, in southeast Texas.

Maze said he decided to work with educational service agencies because he could see what a widespread affect they had.

"I realized that here was the big opportunity to impact many schools, many students and many districts at the same time," he said.

He believes AESA and all educational service agencies have a critical role to play in meeting the continuing challenges faced by education leaders at all levels.

"On any given day, there will be questions to which there aren't any easy answers," Maze said. Collaboration with the experts is the way we solve the issues affecting education today and AESA is the platform to do that."