

Karen Noble has been principal of Hillcrest Elementary School in Nederland for nineteen years during which time Hillcrest has earned an Exemplary rating, the highest rating awarded in the state's accountability system, for sixteen consecutive years. She is one of only seven educators nationwide to receive the prestigious Terrell H. Bell Award this year during the Washington, D.C. ceremony in which her school was honored as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. The Terrell H. Bell Award is named for the former U.S. Secretary of Education and recognizes outstanding school leaders. Principals nominated for the award are leaders who are committed to fostering successful teaching and learning at their schools.

Karen believes it takes courage, vision, dedication, and commitment to be a principal. She believes that a principal is responsible for providing continuous training opportunities for teachers in the latest research and resources available, empowering teachers to choose the programs and methods that best meet their students needs, and providing the materials and an opportunity for the training the teachers need to implement those programs and methods.