

PROFILE



Katherine Hargrove

Gifted children have advocate in group's chief

By Karel Holloway

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Some say there is no need for Katherine Hargrove's organization.

As president-elect of the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented, she said she hears almost daily that intellectually gifted children should not be put in separate classes.

She said research shows that they should.

"They (gifted students) learn differently. They learn both faster and more abstractly," she said.

As president of the 6,000-member association, her job is to help ensure that the smartest children receive the help they need in school. She also works with gifted students as director of pre-college programs at Southern Methodist University.

Her biggest duty as president-elect is to organize the annual conference in November. She will be installed as president at that conference, which will present the latest research on gifted children to teachers and parents.

The group's views are often not popular these days. A growing number of educators are contending that children should not be grouped by their ability. Instead, they say, teachers should use activities that allow children to work together but at their individual levels.

Dr. Hargrove, 56, said she agrees in theory, but believes that most teachers find it difficult to meet the needs of the most gifted students in a regular classroom.

Dr. Hargrove says that instead of taking advanced teaching methods from the gifted, they should be provided for all students.

"As you raise the floor, you must raise the ceiling," she said.