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**White Oak Educator Linda Kennedy  
Named One of Nation's Most Innovative Education Leaders**

**White Oak Intermediate School Teacher Receives  
2005 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award**

**Media Note: Awardees are in Washington, DC through May 18  
To arrange interviews or receive digital photographs, call contact**

**Washington, DC** – For her remarkable work in helping meet students' individual learning needs and to boost their learning capacity – an effort that has helped increase test scores – Linda Kennedy is being honored nationally for her substantial contributions to learning in White Oak.

Cox Communications and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, announced today that Kennedy is the winner of the new *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award*, which recognizes the most inventive classroom educators, administrators, community leaders, and policymakers who are transforming education from Kindergarten through high school (K-12).

"To be selected as Cable's Leaders in Learning Award winners, these awardees demonstrated dedication to improving learning for all children," said Helen Soulé, Ph.D., executive director of Cable in the Classroom. "They did this by reaching beyond the familiar to support and encourage young people to achieve their best. Armed with a high quality education, young people will be prepared to meet the world that awaits them – and to improve and transform it for their own children."

Kennedy is being recognized in the General Excellence category for her work in creating and sustaining the White Oak Learning Development Lab, which helps analyze and address students' individual learning needs and builds their capacity to understand, to process, and to remember information. The Lab works to expand learning readiness, skills, and visual and auditory memory, and offers visual testing and therapy.

Through the efforts of Kennedy and the Development Lab, Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test scores have increased and Special Education and discipline referrals to the principal have both decreased.

"I resolved that no one would leave my room with an unaddressed learning problem," Kennedy said. "I was looking for some addition to the classroom. I wasn't prepared for a room with mini trampolines, beanbags, and balance boards. But that's where I work today."

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Kennedy and the other *Leaders in Learning Award* winners are in Washington, D.C. this week to attend a gala awards ceremony, to meet with Members of Congress and education leaders, and to participate in a series of professional development events. Awardees receive a cash prize from Cable in the Classroom, in addition to the trip to Washington.

The awards ceremony, hosted by Bill Kurtis, host of A&E's *American Justice* and producer of *Investigative Reports* and *Cold Case Files*, will take place on May 17 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will interview award-winners during the awards presentations. Marc Summers, host of *Unwrapped* on the Food Network, John Anderson, an ESPN *Sportscenter* anchor, and Jeff Johnson, host of the BET documentary series *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, will present the awards. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert will receive a tribute from the cable industry. Rising stand-up comedian Ted Alexandro will be performing a ten-minute routine.

"We hope that these awards, and the exceptional work on behalf of learning they honor, will move others to strive for similar excellence and stretch the boundaries of the kind of excellence that is possible in education," said Soulé. "We at Cable in the Classroom will always have that – and these awardees – close to the heart of our mission."

The awards fall into four categories:

- **General Excellence** – Awards given for general excellence in education.
- **Pushing the Envelope** – Awards given to those redefining the education frontier by using cable content or cable technology.
- **Policymaker** – Awards given to federal, state, or local policymakers who have contributed to the improvement of K-12 education in the broadest sense;
- **Media literacy** – An award given in partnership with the National PTA to recognize excellence in advancing media literacy skills.

For more information about *Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards*, please visit [www.ciconline.org](http://www.ciconline.org) or [www.leadersinlearningawards.org](http://www.leadersinlearningawards.org).