

# ON THE EDUCATION FRONT

**If you've been to the Center lately, you've seen our beautiful shiny new classrooms rising from the Blackland clay. Their completion this fall will double our student capacity to 120, and we can't wait to fill them.**

**With growth comes the exhilaration of change but a little bittersweet too.**



**Linda Dunn**  
Education Manager

We've regretfully said goodbye and good wishes to two of our team members.

Stephanie Weber is now a water education specialist with the city of Allen. This is a great move for her. Stephanie was with us for four years, and she leaves a trove of lesson plans, materials and ideas to build on as we move forward with our educational programming. Thank you, Stephanie. Our loss is definitely Allen's gain.



**Stephanie Weber**

And Edie Hilborn has retired for a second time. After six years of service here, she's now spending more time with her wonderful family and enjoying her grandchildren. We will always be grateful for Edie's insight into all things education after

some 40 years of teaching.

We miss Stephanie and Edie but know their new journeys have much in store for them.

Fortunately, we'll continue to have the tremendous team asset of Carol Garrison, who's



**Carol Garrison**

been here four years. Her creativity, knowledge, drive and perpetually cheerful nature have earned her a promotion from educator to a more expansive position as education coordinator. Kudos, Carol!

We've also hired Jacob Gordon as a seasonal conservation educator to help with new



**Edie Hilborn**

programming and teaching. Many of you may remember Jacob. He was an educator here six years ago and left us after two years to become an awesome science teacher in Mansfield. Jacob's exploring another professional opportunity that has come his way, and we count ourselves fortunate to have him through December. Students adore Jacob, and so do we.

Finally, we're interviewing candidates now for a second education coordinator position and look forward to welcoming that new team member soon.



**Jacob Gordon**

In some ways, I feel a little like I did at the Wetland Center's beginning when John and I were *the* staff, our current building was new but empty, and we were determining which way to head.

But that feeling quickly vanishes as I look out on our emerging new facilities

and reflect on how far we've come as we enter our second decade. Our reputation as a nature and education center is solid, and our programming only gets better, thanks to Carol and Jacob and the legacy of our past educators.

We're excited to see what the future holds with new team members, new classrooms and new programming. We're reenergized and ready to move forward with confidence. 🦋