

## Women's Auxiliary Board 2013 Ruth Awards Luncheon

The DBU Women's Auxiliary Board honored three outstanding women during the 2013 Ruth Awards Christmas Luncheon. Recipients of this year's Ruth Awards were Dr. Nell Hoffman, Candice Wright, and Cherry Williams (pictured right). The award is named from the character in the Old Testament book of Ruth. Each distinguished recipient was selected due to exemplifying dedication to God, family, and Christian education.

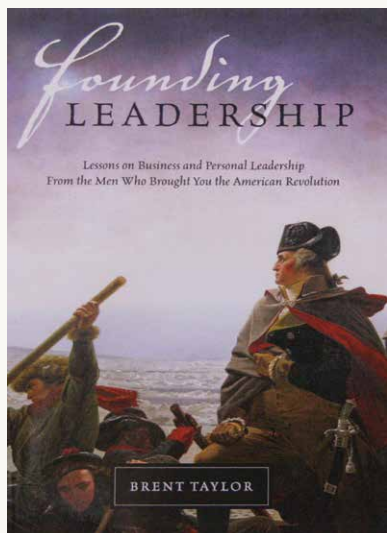
A graduate of Decatur Baptist College and a long-time DBU supporter, Dr. Nell Hoffman served as an elementary school teacher for many years throughout the state of Texas, eventually holding the position as a public school administrator and a director for the Texas Education Agency. Dr. Hoffman also served as a missionary to the Bahamas and an adjunct professor of education. She has long been a member of the Women's Auxiliary Board, and in 2009, she was also given the honor of being a Decatur Baptist College Distinguished Alumna. Dr. Hoffman was introduced during the luncheon by friend, Robert Whitfield, who serves as an advancement officer at DBU. Dr. Hoffman is a member of First Baptist Church of Grapevine.

Candice Wright, a 2003 and 2005 DBU graduate, serves at DBU as the Executive Director of the Women's Auxiliary Board. Having held the position since 2006, the WAB and DBU President Dr. Gary Cook decided to honor Candice with the Ruth Award for her years of faithful service to the



University. Candice was introduced during the luncheon by her husband, Dr. Adam Wright, who serves as vice president and dean of the Gary Cook School of Leadership. The Wrights attend Park Cities Baptist Church.

Cherry Williams, a member of the DBU Board of Trustees and chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee, was also honored during the luncheon. After 26 years of teaching within the Arlington Independent School District, Cherry now serves as a co-director in her multi-age coeducational Sunday school class at First Baptist Church of Arlington. She and her husband, Roger, have been faithful supporters of DBU, and even have the Roger and Cherry Williams Clothes Closet for international students named after them in the Sadler Global Missions Center. Cherry was introduced during the luncheon by lifelong friend, Mitch Bennett, who serves as director of gift accounting and assistant to the president.



## DBU Trustee Brent Taylor Pens Book on Revolutionary Leadership

Dr. Brent Taylor, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, recently published a book focusing on leadership insights from the American Revolutionary period. His work, *Founding Leadership: Lessons on Business and Personal Leadership from the Men who Brought You the American Revolution*, provides snippets from the lives of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, and others from that era as a means to examine how their character and leadership qualities helped them achieve their vision. As seen in the lives of these great figures from the past, effective leadership requires more than just staying the course, but also vision casting, effective communication, inspiring others to join in the process, and planning to reach the proper end.

Dr. Taylor has served as senior pastor since 1999, and he is a current member of the DBU Board of Trustees. He also serves as an adjunct professor of history at DBU.



(L-R) Dr. Neil Dugger, dean of the DBU Dorothy Bush College of Education; Michael Williams, Texas Education Agency Commissioner; Dr. Susan Hull, Superintendent of Grand Prairie ISD; and Dr. Denny Dowd, DBU provost.

## TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY COMMISSIONER VISITS DBU

Dallas Baptist University recently served as host for an education symposium led by Texas Education Agency Commissioner Michael Williams. The purpose of the conference was to bring together North Texas public school teachers and administrators to discuss educator effectiveness and educator evaluations.

The conference was the first of several state-wide events led by Commissioner Williams in an effort to explore new ways to measure the success of educators and employ strategies for ensuring not only growth for students, but also for teachers. The event highlighted the work of the Grand Prairie Independent School District and their new Teacher Advancement Program, which focuses on a year-long assessment and growth process, not just single day evaluations.

Commissioner Williams and Dr. Susan Hull, GPISD Superintendent and DBU adjunct professor, chose DBU not only for the close relationship that Dr. Hull has with DBU, but also for the high marks DBU has consistently received for its teacher preparation program.

This past year, DBU was recognized by the National Council on Teacher Quality for its outstanding education program at both the elementary and secondary levels, the only school in Texas to receive top marks in these two categories. During his discussion with the teachers gathered on campus, Commissioner Williams pointed to the beautiful campus and the excellent track-record of DBU as marks that made DBU a wonderful location to launch these discussions.

“The College of Education at DBU was pleased to host this important event about the Commissioner of Education’s plans to revamp the teacher evaluation system in Texas,” explained Dr. Neil Dugger, dean of the College of Education. “We were honored by his public recognition of the high quality teacher preparation program at DBU.”



### TRAINING SERVANTS TO LEAD IN THE CLASSROOM

Through its nationally recognized undergraduate and master’s degree programs in education, DBU provides quality, Christ-centered public, private, and charter school educators throughout Texas and even the world. In addition, DBU’s Ed.D. in K-12 Leadership program continues to draw outstanding educational leaders, and recently, a consortium of North Texas school districts selected DBU to provide a cohort for select leaders in these areas. Find out more about DBU’s educational offerings by visiting [dbu.edu/education](http://dbu.edu/education).