



## Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar

*De Leon Middle School*



# Innovation At Its Best

Don't tell McAllen AFT member Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar it can't be done. This bright and resourceful teacher developed a revolutionary smart phone application that allows teachers, students, and parents to interact with middle schools by providing easy ways to email the principal and stay on top of homework assignments. Dalinda's app has created new avenues for students to contact librarians, play educational games, check school football game schedules, and even tutoring schedules. Her purpose for developing the app is to help students succeed through mobile communication with their parents and community. After months of reading books on writing in a computer language incomprehensible to most of the public, Dalinda taught herself through trial and error how to write a stand-alone app that poises her to be the future CEO of her own company on developing educational apps for smart phones.

After thinking long and hard on what she could do to increase parental involvement in her school, Dalinda took her idea from the drawing board to fruition and went from having her teacher webpage receiving 50 hits a year to receiving more than 1,000 hits in a single week. To date, her app has been viewed more than 4,000 times, in addition to 750 kids from De Leon. The app was inspired by AVID, the program she coordinates at her school. The app was so good that the McAllen Chamber of Commerce awarded her with a \$10,000 innovation grant to help her develop her business. Already, school districts are expressing interest in using her application for their schools. To date, no public school has released an app like Dalinda's middle school mobile app. "I'm proud to be a product of our community. Mrs. Ruth Skow was my teacher at McAllen High School, and I also interned for State Senator Eddie Lucio and learned about helping the community," said Dalinda. "Anyone with an interest in this app can contact me at [b\\_wise@ejucomm.com](mailto:b_wise@ejucomm.com)," added Dalinda.

It's teachers like Dalinda Gonzalez-Alcantar who help make the McAllen AFT a great organization.



## Mobile App Features

- Access School Calendars for PTA meetings, tutoring schedules, football games
- Parents can email the principal  
Explain an absence to attendance clerk
- Students can contact the librarian and play study games at home
- App is being modified for future use in elementary and high schools and has potential for use in higher education