

# SHARING THE BEST IDEAS

Meet a Ballard & Tighe customer



“The Champion program works!”

## Patti Hatcher

Teacher/At-Risk Coordinator  
Bowie Junior High, Bowie ISD, TX

### What distinguishes your school district?

Bowie Junior High School is a grades 6-8 school in the Bowie Independent School District of Bowie, Texas. There are 319 students in Bowie Junior High School and English language learners make up 14% of the student population. Bowie Junior High earned the rating of Texas Education Agency Recognized School.

### How long have you been an educator?

I have been a teacher for 10 years and I have worked with English language learners for nine of those years. I also serve as the at-risk coordinator for Bowie Junior High.

### What did you want to be when you were a child?

I always wanted to be a teacher. Most of my family is in education and they inspired me to also become an educator.

### What advice do you have for new teachers?

Find a good, well-respected leader in the field to serve as your mentor. Establish a good rapport with the parents of your English language learners.



### What do you like most about *Champion of IDEAS*?

The *Champion* program works well for our junior high students and will continue with them as they travel on to high school. It gives them an opportunity to achieve and build their confidence. My students find that they are excelling in a new language and transferring that achievement to their other content area work. The *Champion of IDEAS* program is very easy to use, whether you are a novice or a veteran. The layout of the lessons is designed to bring success for students regardless of how much or how little experience teachers have in working with English language learners.

### What is your favorite Ballard & Tighe product?

I love *Champion of IDEAS* because of the integration of the literacy and language skills. I love how each set of lessons are scaffolded to build upward through the levels. This curriculum is based on ELA standards and supports our state's Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) very well. My students love the different themes that are presented in *Champion of IDEAS*.

CHAMPION