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## **LC-M's Jones succumbs to injuries**

**Tommy Mann, Jr.**

Tears were being shed Tuesday in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville Consolidated Independent School District as the school family mourns the loss of one of its own.

Missy Jones died late Monday night as result of injuries she sustained in a automobile wreck in late May when a passenger van drove off a cliff in Mexico after a tire blowout.

Jones, the district's State and Federal Programs Coordinator, and fellow co-worker, Terri Estes, the LC-M High School principal, were both injured in the crash, which also killed two Beaumont educators and injured others.

"Missy was a remarkable young lady who fought the good fight and with whom we have been honored to serve," said Dr. Pauline Hargrove, LC-M CISD superintendent, in a statement. "Her dedication to children and education was evident in her thoughts, words, and deeds. She served with a passion for excellence and compassion for people.

"Missy will be remembered for her character, integrity, strong work ethic, perseverance, faithfulness, and love of God and life," Hargrove added. "May we all learn from her and be better because of her."

Jones and Estes were participating in the trip, which was organized by Region V, with educators from other area school districts. The program, known as Title 3 Mexico Teacher Emersion Program, takes educators to Mexico to develop a deeper understanding of the culture of Texas' largest immigrant student population.

Jones sustained critical injuries in the crash, which included head and leg trauma. At one point she had surgery on both legs to repair broken bones, including the placement of a steel rod in her left leg.

Estes, who reportedly sustained leg injuries and a cracked vertebrae, was understandably shaken following the news of Jones passing.

"I got to know her quite well on the trip to Mexico," Estes said. "She was just such an open person. She was so sweet, and just drew you in with her personality. I'm just heartbroken."

Estes said Jones enjoyed her job tremendously and was a valued member of the LC-M school district family.

“I know this was a long battle for her,” Estes continued. “It’s a hard day for all who knew her, and we just want to keep her family in our prayers.”

Funeral arrangements are pending with Dorman Funeral Home in Orange.

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