



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Katie Arvie

Phone: 337-584-1545

E-mail: [karvie@coushatta.org](mailto:karvie@coushatta.org)



**Xena Thompson Selected as D.A.R.E. Role Model  
at Bethel Christian School**

**ELTON, LOUISIANA (March 18, 2014)** – Xena Thompson, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Bethel Christian School and member of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, was selected as a D.A.R.E. Role Model after an selective interview process and meeting the requisite criteria. Some of the requirements for selection of this award include having never used drugs, alcohol or tobacco; maintaining a 2.0 GPA or better; being active in both school and other extra curricular activities; having identifiable goals set for the future; being able to present a positive attitude to elementary school students about the value of remaining drug free; and being available to attend D.A.R.E. classes and D.A.R.E. graduation.

Xena is one of only four Role Models that were chosen in this program. This is a parish wide program and only a few students are selected and interviewed per school.

###

**About the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana**

*The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana was officially recognized by the Federal government in 1973 and marked a major turning point in tribal history in 1985 with the election by popular vote of the first Coushatta tribal government.*

*From their earliest days as a proud, hard-working people struggling to maintain long-standing traditions in the face of possible relocation, the Coushatta Indians have endured and overcome every hardship they have faced and have remained on tribal lands in and around Elton, Louisiana, since the 1800s. Despite serious setbacks and some population dispersal, the tribe's character and ideals have not only held fast, but have been strengthened. The Coushatta language, Koasati, is now considered unique among Native Americans because it has survived in its purest form and is still spoken fluently in the Coushatta community today.*

*The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana owns and operates Coushatta Casino Resort, which employs more than 2,700 area residents. For more information, visit [www.coushattatribela.org](http://www.coushattatribela.org).*