



CASE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2001

Letter from the Director



So much has changed since the Summer Issue of the CASE Newsletter. The school year has begun, after-school programs are up and running, and life as we know it is drastically different. The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have affected all of the CASE staff and our partner schools and districts in different ways. Site Coordinators, teachers and parents are struggling to help children understand the attack on America. I know many adults are struggling to understand the tragedy as well. Like all of you, we at CASE were thrown off course in our lives and work, but we are carrying on, maintaining structure and stability, and doing all we can to help our partner schools begin the year.

Providing safe, quality, after-school programs may now be an even more significant issue than it was before September 11. While the tragic events have saddened us, they have also strengthened our resolve and commitment to our vision that "every child in Harris County has access to an after-school program". There are now 105 (that's right!) CASE partner schools. We have a new office and a bigger staff. And although our projects and our office have tripled in size, we remain committed to providing support and services to our partner schools and districts. This issue of "On the CASE" is all about change and growth - from changing legislation to growing participation in the CASE Partnership Project. As the famous British theologian Richard Hooker wrote, "Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Shannon

Shannon Bishop, LMSW
Director of CASE

The CASE Team

SHANNON BISHOP DIRECTOR OF CASE

LISA CARUTHERS 21ST CCLC COORDINATOR

CHRISTINA CHAPA CASE SECRETARY

DAMIEON COLLINS 21ST CCLC COORDINATOR

TERESA CORONADO OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

SHANYA DEAN 21ST CCLC COORDINATOR

MARIA DELEON 21ST CCLC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DATONYA FOUNTAIN 21ST CCLC COORDINATOR



on the **CASE**

Cooperative for After-School Enrichment

CASE Moved

and the Staff Doubled!

By the end of the 2000-2001 school year, it was clear that just as CASE had to hire six new staff members to keep up with their growing program, they now needed to “go to the next level” in terms of office space. Finding and then moving into a new space was an adventure all in itself, but coupled with burgeoning employee growth made it into a mind-blowing experience. On August 23, 2001 CASE moved its offices from the HCDE Building at 6300 Irvington to Portway Plaza at 1717 Turning Basin Drive. Although it took a few weeks to get settled in, CASE has a new phone number, 713/679-2500, and a new fax number, 713/673-7443. The CASE e-mail and mailing addresses remain the same.

Cool sites for kids

Anyone Can Be a Hero

<http://myhero.com>

Education Place

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids>

Fun and Games - Netscooter™

<http://www.bonus.com>

Educating Jane -

Where smart girls go to learn!

<http://www.educatingjane.com>

How Stuff Works

<http://www.howstuffworks.com>

MEET THE NEW STAFF

“This new staff has the experience and skills we were looking for,” says Shannon Bishop, Director of CASE. “And if I’ve said it once, I’ve said it a thousand times - man, do I hire great people.”

Damieon Collins came to CASE from the telecommunications industry. Damieon graduated from Stephen F. Austin University with a BS in Education and has worked in school-based after-school programs and with students with disabilities. He is the 21st CCLC Coordinator for Region 3 encompassing Alief, Ft. Bend, Katy, Spring Branch, and Waller ISD.

Datonya Fountain comes to CASE directly from the classroom. She graduated from the University of Houston with a BA in Psychology. She then entered the ACP program with Houston ISD and became a certified PK-6 teacher in 1995. She taught first grade for two years, second grade for three years, and served as a reading facilitator for grades PK-2 for one year. Datonya serves as the 21st CCLC Coordinator for Region 2 - Aldine, Cypress-Fairbanks, Huffman and Klein ISD.

Lisa Caruthers comes to CASE from the arts community. She has a Masters in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and a BFA from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Lisa has worked in arts administration, project management, and in special event coordination. She also serves on the board of Natural Legacy and the Positive Project, two programs that use the arts to reach and educate youth. Lisa is the 21st CCLC coordinator for Region IV encompassing Channelview, Galena Park, Goose Creek, North Forest and Pasadena ISDs.

Maria DeLeon 21st CCLC Administrative Assistant also comes to CASE from the arts community. Maria is currently working on her Education degree. She was excited to learn how much after-school programs have grown in our community, giving every child a chance to learn something new.

Tamara S. McGowen is the newest 21st CCLC Administrative Assistant. She comes to us fresh from Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas where she majored in psychology. A native Houstonian, Tamara is eager to use her skills to boost community involvement and public support for after-school programs. **John Nguyen** is the Partnership Project Coordinator. He comes to CASE from the medical community. A graduate of Houston Baptist University, John possesses a BS as a double major in biology and psychology. Previously, he worked for Baylor College of Medicine as a research assistant in the immunology department and did research on pediatric HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). John is also a seasoned businessman with ventures that include real estate, food market, and property development. •

Upcoming Events

December 12

CASE 21st CCLC Holiday/Winter
Celebration

January 25 & 26

STASAC (South Texas Association
for School-Age Care) Annual
Conference

For more information about
any of the events, call CASE at 713/679-2500

Kids' Day at the Track



A ROARING SUCCESS

A whopping 54 cars from four CASE schools were in a hot competition at the Texaco/Havoline Grand Prix - Kids' Day at the Track. Yes, you read correctly. CASE schools actually built, painted and raced cars during the Texaco/Havoline Houston Grand Prix. They were made out of pine and weighed under five ounces, but the math and science involved was definitely high tech.



THE ELECTRONIC EYE MAKES "PHOTO FINISHES" A THING OF THE PAST.

Houston ISD's Alexander Hamilton Middle School and Albert L. Thomas Middle School, Alief ISD's Killough Middle School, and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD's Dean Middle School all participated in the Kids' Day at the Track math and science project this year in their after-school programs. Curriculum was provided by HCDE via the Education Foundation of Harris County and these four schools learned about the math and science of auto racing.

Math and science play a huge part in auto racing. "Making your car go faster than everyone else's car is based on numbers and physics," says Dr. Dan Felske, HCDE's Science Specialist. "The curriculum is very thorough - it covers many aspects of the math and science involved in racing- from aerodynamics to competition statistics."

The curriculum's high point is the actual pinewood derby and art competition event at the Grand Prix, but the learning goes on all year. "Using the Internet, students can follow the CART statistics and continue with the extension activities year round" explains Felske.

The kids in the after-school programs will continue to follow the racers through the CART season. "We are still working with the curriculum provided - the kids have been really enthusiastic" says

Julie Blanchard, Hamilton Middle School 21st CCLC Coordinator. "Math and science had never been so loved by the kids."

CASE kids from all four schools and local charities checked in early on the Friday before the Houston Grand Prix. They proceeded to register their cars for competition - art or racing or both. After a quick tour of the paddock they went to the grandstands and watched some of the qualifying races.

Revved up with the excitement of racing, the kids returned to the George R. Brown Grand Ballroom for lunch and the pinewood derby. Master of Ceremonies



THE "TAX MAN" PRAISES MATH AND SCIENCE.

Melissa Wilson from the FOX 26 News Team introduced Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector Paul Bettencourt, who kicked off the event with a few words about math and science. "If I didn't love math, I wouldn't be up here today," he said. "Math and science can take you to some great places - like where you are today - the Texaco Grand Prix! Work hard in school, have fun and let the games begin!"

Nationally renowned racing announcer Chris Economaki took the stage. The man known throughout the world as "the voice of racing" held the audience's attention by recalling how he got into racing and how much he has loved it. Finally, in is familiar booming voice, he spoke the line that has made him famous. "Ladies and Gentlemen, start... your... engines!"



CHRIS ECONOMAKI

All eyes were glued to the stage and screens that showed the camera focused on the wooden track. Randle Thomas from San Jacinto College ran through the derby rules and how it worked. Double elimination began. Three cars raced down the track at one time with each car racing at least twice. In between races, Thomas talked to the audience. "Learning math and science in school can really get you into racing. In fact," he said, "Two of my former students are working as mechanics in the pit downstairs right now."



BRIGHT YELLOW T-SHIRTS AND WHITE BUCKET HATS WERE IN HIGH STYLE FOR KIDS' DAY AT THE TRACK 2001.

After the pinewood derby, each kid attending Kids' Day at the Track was free to go back to the grandstands and watch the rest of the day's heats. A huge "Thank you" goes out to Texaco and the Education Foundation of Harris County from CASE. A great time was had by all participating schools and programs. •

BELOW: WITH FRONT ROW GRANDSTAND SEATING, THE ONLY THING BETWEEN THE KIDS AND THE CARS WAS A REINFORCED CONCRETE BARRIER.

BELOW MIDDLE: IN THE GRAND PRIX PADDOCK, KIDS GOT A CLOSE UP VIEW OF THE BEHIND THE SCENES OF CART RACING.



ABOVE MIDDLE: KIDS' DAY EMCEE MELISSA WILSON AND HCDE SUPERINTENDENT BOB BREZINA.

ABOVE: JUDGE MIKE R. FIELDS READS THE KIDS' DAY AT THE TRACK PROCLAMATION FROM THE MAYOR.

CART Wheels for Kids

The day before before the Texaco Havoline Grand Prix of Houston was really the start of Kids' Day at the Track for HISD's Hamilton Middle School students. Hamilton was the lucky recipient of a CART Wheels For Kids event this year featuring Champ Car Driver, Kenny Brack of Team Rahal.

Championship Auto Racing Teams, in a partnership with Ford Racing, Shell and Simple Green, utilize several Ford-powered Champ Car drivers to help promote automobile, helmet and environmental safety among children through the formation of the CART Wheels For Kids program.

In this program, drivers visit with kids in a concerted effort to relay safety messages to them regarding key components such as seatbelts, helmets and the environment; educate them about the sport and the FedEx Championship Series; and create a special experience for all those involved.

"Thanks to the partnership among CART, Ford Racing, Shell and Simple Green, this program provides an excellent avenue to promote automobile, helmet and environmental safety to children and give them the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the stars of the most competitive racing series in the world," said Mike Zizzo, CART Vice President of Competition Public Relations. "We are hopeful that the success of this program will allow us to expand this foundation in the future."

CART Wheels For Kids was kicked off last summer at the Safe & Sound after-school program in Milwaukee. Sigma Autosport driver Oriol Servia was the featured guest at Safe & Sound, where he visited with more than 250 children initiating the first of the CART Wheels For Kids visits throughout the country.

Other Ford drivers participating in CART Wheels For Kids are Max Papis, also of Team Rahal, Bryan Herta of Zakspeed Forsythe Racing and Michel Jourdain Jr. of Herdez Bettenhausen.

"This program will give the kids a tremendous insight into safety both in racing and on the road," said Brack, the 2000 CART Rookie of the Year. "Companies like Shell, Ford, Simple Green and CART can really affect the children and their futures with this program. Highway safety is such an important issue that we want to make children aware of this program and explain how seatbelts, helmets and other safety equipment are essential."

Over 250 Hamilton students attended the event. Each participant received a special gift bag filled with a Lego racecar, a CART Wheels For Kids poster, CART driver trading cards and CART stickers. Later, during Q & A, kids that could correctly answer Kenny's questions won Lego sets, weekend race tickets, t-shirts, jackets and other prizes.

"Because safety is so important to Ford Motor Company, we look forward to meeting and educating these youngsters about the importance of wearing the proper safety equipment," said Burt Diamond, Global Marketing Manager for Ford Racing Technology. "Our hope is that this program will provide the children with a fun, energetic atmosphere in which they can meet and interact with one of the stars of CART while also learning to use a helmet and seatbelt when riding their bike, rollerblading or riding in a car." •



SO MANY COOL THINGS TO CHOOSE FROM... DECISIONS, DECISIONS!



KENNY WAS FLOODED WITH AUTOGRAPH SEEKERS AFTER THE PROGRAM.



ABOVE LEFT: RACER, KENNY BRACK, SPEAKS TO HAMILTON STUDENTS ABOUT AUTO SAFETY.

ABOVE RIGHT: PRINCIPAL KEN GOEDDEKE MANAGED THE CROWD OF STUDENTS DURING THE VERBAL QUIZ. STUDENTS WHO ANSWERED KENNY'S QUESTIONS CORRECTLY WON PRIZES.

BELOW: ONE OF THE FIRST QUESTIONS ASKED WAS "WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM?"



COORDINATOR JULIE BLANCHARD KICKS OFF THE CART WHEELS FOR KIDS PROGRAM.

Lights On Afterschool!

THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON WAS THE BEST PLACE - EVER!



On October 11, the one-month anniversary of the horrific attack upon our nation, more than 3,500 programs across the country kept their lights on in support of after-school programs and the role they play in strengthening America's youth. CASE held a 14 school, 800+ kids Lights On Afterschool! event at the Houston Children's Museum.

All CASE program schools were invited to the Children's Museum to attend and participate. Since this year's theme was "Rally Around After-School," CASE hosted a "traditional pep rally" sans bonfire. HISD's Scoggins, Sherman and Blackshear Elementaries, along with Alief's Killough Middle School, showcased some of the talents learned in their after-school programs at the pep rally.

After-school collages in the shape of light bulbs were displayed in the auditorium and first second and



KILLOUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GAVE A VERY HONORABLE KARATE DEMONSTRATION.

third places were awarded to the artists. In the Most Creative category, first place went to Claire Robinson of Pershing Middle School, second place went to HISD student Frank Nerio and third place went to students of Galena Park High and Galena Park Elementary. In the Most Descriptive category, first place went to Chun-Yu Lee of Pershing Middle School, second place went to HISD student Christopher W. and third

place went to Purple Sage Education Station of Purple Sage Elementary. One of the most exciting things about this year's event was the announcement that Arnold Schwarzenegger has joined our efforts as the National Chair of Lights On Afterschool! "The hours after school are when kids are most susceptible to negative influences and I have seen first hand the unbelievable difference it makes when a child has a safe place to go after the school day ends," Schwarzenegger said. "These programs enrich students, support families and make our nation stronger. Lights On Afterschool! provides an incredible chance to show our support of these programs and it is our responsibility to ensure every child in this



KIDS WERE FREE TO EXPLORE THE ENTIRE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BECAUSE LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL! JUST SO HAPPENED TO FALL ON "FAMILY NIGHT."

country has a great after-school program to call their own."

Mr. Schwarzenegger has been committed to after-school programming in the United States since being appointed Chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness in 1990. In his role as Lights On Afterschool's National Chair, Schwarzenegger will make media appearances and participated in one of the Los Angeles Lights On Afterschool! events on Oct. 11.

Lights On Afterschool! helps illustrate where lights are on for kids after school, as well as pinpoints the unlit places where we need safe and enrich-

ing activities for kids after school. CASE and the Afterschool Alliance encouraged all communities in Harris County to participate in Lights On Afterschool! Everyone has a role to play in this effort to call attention to the importance of quality after-school programs and the need for more resources.

Students who attended the rally for after-school got orange and blue pom-poms (After-School Alliance colors) or miniature American flags. Punch, light bulb shaped cookies and free admission to the Children's Museum followed the rally. "Some of the students from Pershing Middle School came up to me as they were waiting for their buses" said Shannon Bishop, CASE Director. "They told me that this was the BEST field trip they had EVER been on. That made me feel so good." •

RIGHT: THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, THE HOUSTON TEXAN CHEERLEADERS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND KIDS "RALLY AROUND AFTER-SCHOOL" TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR QUALITY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.



AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE SPOKESWOMAN ERIN O'HARA WELCOMES EVERYONE TO LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!





Colorful Classrooms

HISD's Blackshear Elementary received a fresh learning environment this year, thanks to the Colorful Classrooms Campaign, an innovative program from the Glidden Paint Company.

The Colorful Classrooms Campaign is a program started last year by Glidden as a way to improve the learning environments of kindergarten classrooms. Glidden provides the paint for the program and Purdy Corporation, of Portland, Oregon, supplies the rollers and brushes. Last year, in the first year of the program, Glidden selected and painted kindergarten classrooms in 12 schools across the U.S. This year nearly 1,000 schools were nominated.

HCDE's Marketing and Communications division sent nomination information and a "heads up" to CASE 21st CCLC Coordinator, Shanya Dean. The information was then passed on to all CASE 21st CCLC schools. Dean said she knew Blackshear would definitely enter the contest. "The community is so involved in Blackshear," she explained. "I knew they would win the contest before they even called to tell us they had won."

Blackshear's former after-school coordinator, Julie Hill, nominated the school. "I sent in a letter from our principal, a fact sheet on Blackshear Elementary outlining special awards and recognition we have received in the last five years, pictures of our classrooms, artwork from students - anything I could get my hands on to show how involved the community and our staff is in the lives of our students." Built in the 1950's, Blackshear Elementary is a classic style red brick elementary school with a large wing that was added on in the early 70's. School grounds are meticulously kept and green space is a hot commodity in



A HOME DEPOT VOLUNTEER PAINTS A SEPARATING POST "JALAPEÑO GREEN."

the inner city area. The school is a major focal point for the community and has a reputation for its safe, secure, and caring environment.

"Glidden has long recognized the important role that color plays in setting a mood or environment," said Jeff Krejsa, director of marketing for The Glidden Company, "and perhaps nowhere is the environment more important than in a school classroom."

"Environment plays a big role in the learning process," agreed Susan Arndt, a Boston-based interior designer, Montessori-certified educator and consultant to the Colorful Classrooms Campaign. "The right colors are important because they can help fulfill a child's social, emotional and physical needs and can help create an environment that is conducive to learning."



NINE VOLUNTEERS FROM HOME DEPOT HELPED CLEAN, PREP, TAPE AND PAINT A TOTAL OF FIVE KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE CLASSROOMS.

On August 2, National Paint Day, nine Glidden sales representatives from the local Home Depot provided their labor and painting expertise along with many volunteers from Blackshear Elementary and Harris County Department of Education. At the end of the day, a total of six kindergarten and first grade classrooms had been transformed.

It is amazing what a fresh coat of paint can do for a room. It is also amazing what a clean, bright, and fresh learning environment can do for a student just starting his school career. Winston Churchill said it best, "We shape our dwellings, thereafter our dwellings shape our lives." •



ABOVE: IN KEEPING WITH THE EXISTING CABINET COLOR COMBINATIONS, THE KINDERGARTEN ROOMS WERE PAINTED YELLOW, ORANGE, AND GREEN.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COLORFUL CLASSROOMS CAMPAIGN AND ABOUT HOW TO NOMINATE THEIR SCHOOLS FOR THE 2002 PROGRAM BY VISITING THE GLIDDEN WEBSITE: WWW.GLIDDENPAINT.COM, OR CALLING 1-800-GLIDDEN.



CASE Biggest Grantee in Nation

This past June, Harris County Department of Education's CASE (Cooperative for After-school Enrichment) was awarded 12.9 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program. Since its inception in 1999, CASE has been working towards achieving its goal - to make sure that all Harris County school children have access to one - by fundraising and grantmaking.

CASE funding has grown from \$152,000 in the fall of 1999 to just over \$28 million. CASE Director Shannon Bishop is very excited about the new Phase IV grant. "We are just that much closer to achieving our goal. These new monies really impact the program. Not only did we receive the largest grant amount awarded for this funding cycle, CASE is now officially the largest single 21st CCLC grantee in the country."

CASE currently manages several large projects - the 21st Century Community Learning Centers in 71 schools in 15 Independent School Districts, and the Partnership Project in 32 schools in the Aldine, Alief, Houston, Spring and Spring Branch Independent School Districts as well as HCDE's Academic and Behavior Center East and the charter school, Wa-Set Preparatory Academy.

Harris County school districts participating in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Project are: Alief, Aldine, Channelview, Cypress-Fairbanks, Galena Park, Goose Creek, Houston, Huffman, Katy, North Forest, Pasadena, Spring Branch, and Waller. With the new grant monies awarded, CASE added Klein I.S.D. and Fort Bend I.S.D to its list of school districts supported.

Since the majority of the CASE budget comes from 21st CCLC monies, Bishop and HCDE Fund Development Director Gayla Rawlinson were questioned about their hopes for funding CASE after 2004.

Rawlinson explained that "with the changes occurring in 21st CCLC legislation dealing with monies distributed through formula grants to the state, it is even more important to partner with community and faith-based organizations." She also noted that in the future the 21st CCLC monies schools receive may be significantly lower, requiring more community and school district investment to continue the level of service. "My hope is that the entire community understands the extensive needs our children have in the after-school hours, and how beneficial after-school programs have been to our community that they can't imagine their discontinuation."



GAYLA RAWLINSON

Bishop added, "CASE hosts grant writing and budgeting workshops, hosts partnership fairs so schools can meet businesses and community organizations that want to partner with them, and has numerous training workshops for after-school coordinators to learn how to sustain projects after the grant period." As long as there is a need for quality after-school programs in Harris County, CASE will do everything to get them. •

What do great after-school programs all have in common?

DEVELOPING HIGH-QUALITY AFTER-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS TRAINING

All great after-school programs have one thing in common. They are all supported by multiple partnerships - among schools, parents, educators, communities, businesses, churches, and children.

This past September, 35 CASE 21st Century Community Learning Center coordinators, principals, and partners attended a two-day intensive training on Developing High-Quality After-School Partnerships. This training was developed by the National Association of Partners in Education and the Met Life Foundation. Last summer, CASE was lucky enough to serve as the pilot site for the training, offering it to 12 schools.

CASE Partnership Project

This school year, the CASE Partnership Project is bigger than ever with 32 schools. The Partnership Project began in 1999 as a collaborative venture among HCDE, Harris County Judge Robert Eckels and TWC (the Texas Workforce Commission). The Partnership Project is funded using local monies, federal child care funds, and parental co-payments. Partnership Schools are listed below.

ALDINE ISD: CARMICHAEL ELEMENTARY

ALIEF ISD: LANDIS ELEMENTARY

HOUSTON ISD: ATHERTON ELEMENTARY, BARRICK ELEMENTARY, BENAVIDEZ ELEMENTARY,

BLACKSHEAR ELEMENTARY, BROCK ELEMENTARY, DOGAN ELEMENTARY, ED WHITE ELEMENTARY,

EIGHTH AVENUE CHARTER, EMERSON ELEMENTARY, FOERSTER ELEMENTARY,

GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY, GREGORY LINCOLN ELEMENTARY, HALPIN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER,

HERRERA ELEMENTARY, HIGHLAND HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY, MADING ELEMENTARY, MONTGOMERY

ELEMENTARY, PINEY POINT ELEMENTARY, SCARBOROUGH ELEMENTARY, SCROGGINS ELEMENTARY,

WALNUT BEND, WHARTON ELEMENTARY, YMCA CHARTER SCHOOL,

SPRING ISD: HERITAGE ELEMENTARY, LINK ELEMENTARY, THOMPSON ELEMENTARY

SPRING BRANCH ISD: CEDAR BROOK ELEMENTARY, PINE SHADOWS ELEMENTARY

HARRIS COUNTY DEPT. OF EDUCATION: ACADEMIC AND BEHAVIOR CENTER - EAST

WA-SET: WA-SET PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Gateway Giveaway

SCHULTZ MIDDLE SCHOOL WINS THE GATEWAY COMPUTER

As part of their support of "After-School Heroes" campaign, Isuzu and Gateway donated computers to after-school programs across the country. CASE was the lucky recipient of one such computer, and while we really are fond of Gateways, we thought it only right to get the computer in the hands of kids in after-school programs. David Edgeron won the Gateway Computer for the Waller ISD's Schultz Middle School 21st Century Community Learning Center at the "Developing High-Quality After-School Partnerships Training" on September 6th and 7th. •



Updates

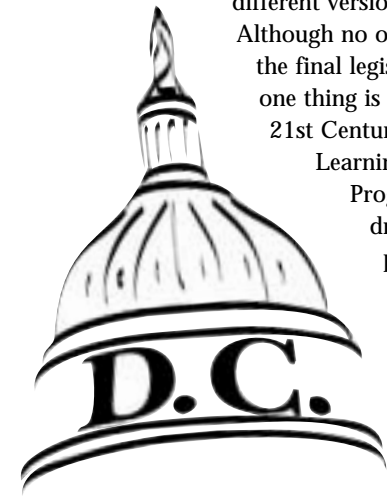
WASHINGTON D.C.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Re-Authorization Act. At this time, the House and Senate have different versions of the Bill.

Although no one knows when the final legislation will pass, one thing is for certain - the 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Program will change drastically, with the program being administered by state education agencies in the future.

Although the authorizing legislation will



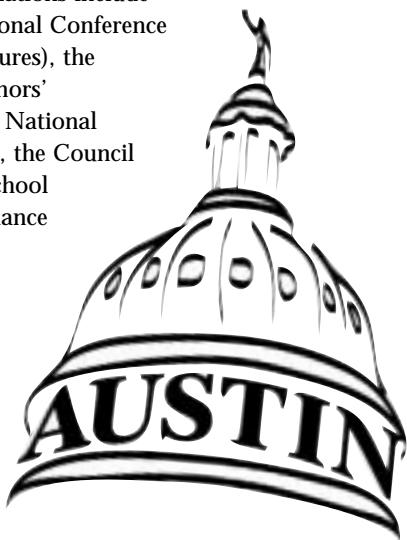
dramatically alter the applicant pool, CASE plans to lead the 2002 Consolidated Houston/Harris County Application.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

In August, CASE committed to be a part of the Texas ATAC - the After-school Technical Assistance Collaborative. ATAC is funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Member organizations include

NCSL (the National Conference of State Legislatures), the National Governors' Association, the National League of Cities, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Finance Project, and the Afterschool Alliance.

The first two meetings of ATAC took place in Austin in August and October. A wide variety of stakeholders attended - school personnel, child care providers, parents, and legislators. The Texas group will work along with the national organizations to identify key after-school issues facing state policymakers.



For more information on policy that affects after-school programs, you can go to the "Policy News" section of the Afterschool Alliance's Web site - www.afterschoolalliance.org

Collaborative Arts Initiative

The Collaborative Arts Initiative was designed to expand opportunities for after-school enrichment in the arts. The Initiative is a joint effort of the Education Foundation of Harris County and CASE. The Education Foundation of Harris County was formed in 1994 to "create opportunities for all our children."

Funding for the Collaborative Arts Initiative was raised by the Education Foundation of Harris County at its annual "Standing Ovarions" event in January 2001. Approximately \$35,000 is available to fund school-based after-school collaborative initiatives during the 2001- 2002 school year.

While many after-school programs focus on academic enhancement or remediation, few programs are centered on the arts. After-school programs that offer activities in the arts provide children opportunities for extended engagement in the artistic process not available at other times during the school day. The lengthened timeframe for instruction and structured exploration in after-school programs gives students more opportunities for self-expression and development of abilities in particular art forms. This in turn enables young people to develop the motivation, skills and discipline necessary to make meaningful contributions to solo or group projects.

In August, CASE released the RFP (Request for Proposals) for the Collaborative Arts Initiative. The RFP was mailed to every school district and school in Harris County and to 500 local arts organizations and artists. CASE received 36 proposals and hopes to announce the seven funded projects this December. •



After-school art programs help kids

- learn about the importance of high standards of achievement for themselves and others
- experience what it means to maintain focus and how sustained practice can lead to higher levels of proficiency
- have direct involvement with artists and with other professionals who work in arts organizations (These professionals do not replace in-school arts teachers, but support, supplement and enhance in-school education)

Research has shown that the most critical element in sustaining arts learning efforts appears to be active community involvement in shaping and implementing policies and programs. Two essential elements of after-school arts programs are creating effective partnerships with community-based organizations and enriching learning opportunities.

Engagement in the arts nurtures young peoples' development of cognitive, social and personal competencies. After-school programs emphasizing the arts can increase academic achievement, decrease youth involvement in delinquent behavior, and improve young people's attitudes about themselves and their futures.

SPECIFICALLY, THE ARTS

- contribute to improved critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making
- involve the communication, manipulation, interpretation and understanding of complex symbols (much as do language and mathematics)
- foster higher-order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation
- regularly engage multiple skills and abilities and
- develop imagination and judgment

(from "How the Arts Can Enhance After-School Programs" (2000, U.S. Department of Education, available at www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html).