



Education
Foundation
of Harris County

INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

About the Education Foundation of Harris County

The Education Foundation of Harris County (EFHC) was incorporated in 1993 in partnership with Harris County Department of Education and received its 501(c)(3) designation in 1994. With the mission inspiring a passion for learning, EFHC's goals are to inspire discovery, promote creativity and problem-solving, build confidence and encourage all learners to reach for the stars and envision a future beyond the classroom. By utilizing effective collaborations with companies and organizations, EFHC links students with professionals to help sharpen critical thinking skills and heighten career awareness. Programs reach students and teachers in 25 independent school districts in Harris County and surrounding areas, where over 944,000 students are enrolled.

EFHC activities reflect the belief that every student can learn and succeed, given opportunity and education. Services include afterschool programs, Head Start and professional development for teachers and administrators.

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Message from the Board Chair

Greetings!

The Education Foundation of Harris County (EFHC) hopes you and your family are doing well, especially given the numerous challenges we have all faced in recent months. While the school year started off normally, we ended up in a place we didn't expect—at home and relying on internet service for teaching and learning. We commend our school district and government officials for their careful considerations to help keep our students, teachers and staff safe as we weather this global pandemic.

Despite the unexpected changes, the EFHC continued to work closely with Harris County Department of Education and our community collaborators to bring impactful projects and resources to area students and teachers.

In the fall, we renewed our support for the REAL SuperMENTors Read program with a grant from Bank of Texas, providing books for our Head Start students and recruiting men volunteers to read aloud to Head Start classrooms. In February, we assisted with the R.T. Garcia Early Childhood Winter Conference with door prizes for participants, compliments of a substantial gift card from H-E-B.

When the pandemic restrictions were put in place, the All-Earth Ecobot Challenge and the CASE Debates programs shifted gears to implement programs virtually. We helped support the Ecobot project through our collaborations with Wood and CenterPoint Energy, both of which have assisted Ecobot financially and with employee volunteers for several years.

We are proud and grateful that we closed out the school year with two big accomplishments. First, Houston Endowment Inc., a longtime contributor to EFHC, awarded us \$495,000 for CASE for Kids' Youth Pathways: Digital Badging Initiative. This innovative project allows students to show mastery of skills in a variety of areas (e.g., technology, the arts, sports, etc.) through an electronic badging system. Second, we launched the Partners in Education grant program, which provided over \$200,000 this year to 16 local school districts for special projects, such as technology enhancements and COVID-19 related supplies.

We invite you to join our mission of inspiring a passion for learning. To find out how you can support great public education programs, contact Danielle Bartz, the Education Foundation of Harris County Liaison, at 713-696-8222 or dbartz@hcde-texas.org.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Edgar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James Edgar
Board Chair

Program Highlights

All-Earth Ecobot Challenge

Brown Foundation - \$5,000

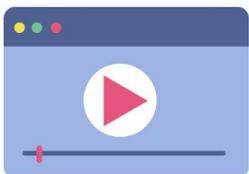
CenterPoint Energy - \$3,000

Wood Group USA - \$2,439

EFHC collaborated with Harris County Department of Education's Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE for Kids) on the All-Earth Ecobot Project. The project is known for creating excitement around STEM careers, as students work in teams under the guidance of teachers and STEM professionals to program robots or drones to accomplish certain tasks. Students learn computer programming, team work and other skills to prepare them for the 21st century workforce. The Ecobot project, now in its 13th year, attracts over 800 students from across Harris County and the state to compete in the challenge. As a result of the pandemic, Ecobot was a hands-on stay-at-home activity in 2020.



Level Up Houston



Level Up Houston was launched by Harris County Department of Education's after school division CASE for Kids to data into the hands of youth as an investment in their future.

Level Up Houston was birthed out of the need for effective ways to utilize data and the desire to provide an avenue students in the Greater Houston area to archive accomplishments in an ever-evolving on-line portfolio. Through partnerships with local school districts, higher education institutions, area municipalities, community organizations, the workforce, Level Up Houston will provide students with a wealth of learning opportunities both on line and in-person, as well as opening doors to build and strengthen community and network connections. Level Up Houston serves as a vehicle to promote participating youth to employers, share scholarship opportunities and align with high education networks.

Learners, you can explore an interest, hone skills, document your accomplishments, and discover learning pathways that chart the road to potential careers, all while earning digital badges. You will be able to share these badges across social media and with friends, teachers, college representatives, and potential future employees. We're just getting

started and working hard to provide you with a robust library of learning opportunities. So, join the learning, have fun, and Level Up as you increase your skills and discover your path!

Parents/Guardians

To register your child complete the:
[Student Registration Form](#)



Join Us

More information coming soon!



Employers / HED

More information coming soon!



Level Up Youth Pathways: Digital Badging Initiative Houston Endowment - \$495,000

Digital Badging uses data to drive change by capturing youth accomplishments, building community partnerships, and creating college, career, and military readiness pathways.

Drawing on the theory of gamification, digital badges are electronic symbols used to document performance and achievement. They capture learning that takes place anytime, anywhere, including out of school time. Digital badges can be shared across social media, and they will follow students into adulthood.

Program Highlights

Early Childhood Winter Conference

H-E-B - \$500

EFHC assisted with the Harris County Department of Education's 34th Annual R.T. Garcia Early Childhood Winter Conference, which attracted 1,000 participants from across the state of Texas. The conference featured children's author Peter Reynolds as the keynote speaker, 30 breakout sessions and numerous educational vendors. EFHC provided a \$500 gift card from HEB to help with gifts and door prizes for participants.



Program Highlights



Read-Excel-Achieve-Lead (REAL) SuperMENTors Read

Bank of Texas - \$14,040

The REAL SuperMENTors Read program provides books to 1,200 Head Start students and recruits male community volunteers to read aloud to Head Start classrooms. After students finish reading the books in the classroom, they take the books home to start their own personal libraries. EFHC assisted the program by acquiring support from Bank of Texas to purchase Scholastic Inc. book sets.

Program Highlights

Partners in Education Grant Program

Harris County Department of Education - \$500,000

Through the generosity of the Harris County Department of Education, EFHC awarded grants totaling over \$207,000 to 16 area school districts to help address urgent needs related to COVID-19. Projects funded ranged from purchasing masks and personal protective equipment for staff to technology enhancements for students and teachers. Pictured above, representatives of the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation on the left accept their grant, with Harris County Department of Education Trustee Amy Hinojosa on the right.



Financials

Total contributions awarded - \$1,019,978.72

For a copy of our most recent audit, please visit <https://efhc.org>



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