

The Connector

A weekly publication of Harris County Department of Education
for the HCDE Board of Trustees

From the office of **JAMES COLBERT, JR. | SUPERINTENDENT**



Of Note...

As the year approaches a close, I've begun the preliminary planning of the Superintendents' Groupthink Session. Keeping in mind that Harris County school district superintendents are a collective public education think-tank within themselves, I plan for the framework of these quarterly summits to be both purposeful and informative for every Superintendent in attendance. The possibilities associated with such a powerful collaboration of brainpower are endless. To say that I am excited about this endeavor is an absolute understatement.

This week, I continued relationship-building with Harris County area superintendents. I am pleased to report that I met with the superintendents from both Channelview and Goose Creek.

Just this past Wednesday, we celebrated the induction of 26 students into the 2014 National Adult Education Honor Society. It was rewarding to see these adult learners who have overcome so many obstacles in their lives receive such a worthy honor as a result of their tenacious spirits and hard work. Today, we watched students from the ABC-East campus maximize their talents in a Christmas Production. Both events are featured in this issue of **The Connector**.

It is bittersweet for me to extend this personal thank you to both Trustee Debra Kerner and Trustee Howard Jefferson for their years of dedicated service to the HCDE Board of Trustees. The children of Harris County are better off as a result of your contributions to our Board. I am sorry that we didn't have an opportunity to work together longer but I am confident that you will channel your energies into even greater contributions to the community.

You are reminded that our own Trustee Erica Lee Carter is being honored this Saturday at the Houston/Harris County Retired Teachers Association's annual Honor Luncheon. I take this opportunity to congratulate Trustee Lee Carter on this accomplishment and I thank her for her service to children, the community, and to HCDE.

I look forward to seeing you Tuesday as we recognize our distinguished outgoing Board Members- Trustees Kerner and Jefferson- at a reception at noon, immediately preceding the regularly scheduled December Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. The reception will take place on the 4th floor.

Finally, you are reminded to submit highlights, honors, and recognitions regarding what you do in your communities. Information items for coverage in **The Connector** should be submitted to boardhighlights@hcde-texas.org. It's a great way to connect!

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PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Adult Education inducts 26 into National Adult Education Honor Society

Two days ago, the **Adult Education** division rewarded exceptional students through induction into the National Adult Education Honor Society. HCDE's 2014 Adult Education National Honor Society class is composed of 26 students who embody the ideal that it's never too late to learn.



The National Adult Education Honor Society recognizes dedicated adult learners who rise to the top as leaders and also persevere to achieve adult learning success. These honorees also visibly improve their lives and those of others through learning.

According to Adult Education director Eduardo Honold, "Their teachers recognize these students as leaders who are committed to learning while helping their classmates and making an impact in their communities."

Human Resources offers Transition Power

The **Human Resources** division is offering after-hours career empowerment sessions to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) staff as the contract between HCDE and the Texas Department of Rehabilitative and Assistive Services (DARS) comes to a close. The purpose of the sessions is to assist ECI staff with successful career transition from HCDE to their next employment experiences. Sessions began yesterday and will continue Tuesday.

An Update Regarding Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) has identified two agencies to assume our expiring **Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)** contract. Details between the two agencies are still being refined. We will apprise our clients of additional information once it becomes available.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

ABC-East students showcase talent SCENES FROM TODAY'S HOLIDAY PRODUCTION!



UPCOMING EVENTS

ABC West Holiday Program
Friday, December 19, 2014
10:30 a.m.

Highpoint East and Highpoint North Holiday Luncheons
Friday, December 19, 2014
11:30 a.m.

ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING by training the trainer Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

- 12.8 | Incident Command System (ICS)- School Emergency and Crisis Response
- 12.8 | Early Childhood Winter Conference Planning Session
- 12.10 | HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Meeting
- 12.10 | The Quest for Grants Training Series Webinar – Using a Logic Model to Create your Grant Project Design
- 12.11 | English as a Second Language ESL TExES #154 Supplemental One-Day Mini Academy
- 12.11 | Integrating Elementary Social Studies and Science
- 12.12 | Building a Parent Program from A-Z
- 12.13 | BEST Plus Training for Non-Testers
- 12.13 | GED 2014 Geometry
- 12.13 | I-BEST
- 12.13 | Orientation, Registration and Retention
- 12.13 | TISESL: Industry Specific Curriculum: Sales and Service
- 12.13 | TExES Special Education K-12 Certification Test Preparation

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

ISS Represents HCDE Through Collaboration

The **Instructional Support Services (ISS) and Communications and Public Information (CPI) divisions** recently represented HCDE at a meeting hosted by the North Harris County Education Alliance—an organization that facilitates Collaborative Action Networks on Pre-k and Math and College Readiness.

HCDE's Center for Grants Development Hosts Webinar

Using a Logic Model to Create Your Grant Project Design is the title of a session hosted by the Center for Grants Development this past Wednesday. The training covered the elements of a logic model and how it can be used by a proposal development team to create a project. This helpful, strategic webinar walked attendees through strategies to engage a proposal writing team in order to conceptualize a project.

CASE Featured on KPRC Channel 2

HCDE's Center for Afterschool, Summer and Expanded Learning (CASE) for Kids' Director Lisa Caruthers was a guest on Khambrel Marshall's weekly Houston Newsmakers. Dr. Caruthers discussed the City Connections grant and how it will benefit afterschool programs in the area.

ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING by training the trainer *(continued)*

Trainings hosted in Harris County School Districts this week

WALLER ISD

12.8 | Classroom Instructional Techniques

Aldine ISD

12.9 | Sheltered Instruction for Bilingual Teachers, Session 3

Spring ISD

12.9 | Balanced Literacy Project

Waller ISD

12.10 | Classroom Instructional Techniques

Training hosted at Charter School this week

12.13 | ESL 154 Test Preparation

Alternative Venue Training this week: Houston Museum of Natural Science

12.12 | Social Studies Leadership Group

BUSINESS CONNECTIONS



Adult Education Director- Dr. Eduardo Honold (shown far left) and Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Celes Harris (shown third from left) with representatives from Marek Brothers Construction- a close community partner with Adult Education.

This week's Harris County School District Highlight:

Alief ISD needs community volunteers to assist in classrooms, offices, clinics, on field trips and in the district clothing pantry. District officials streamlined the volunteer application process to make it easier.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

All members of the **HCDE Board of Trustees** are encouraged to submit your highlights and tidbits to boardhighlights@hcde-texas.org. Let's get to know each other even better!



Remember-January is Board Appreciation Month!

Expect to be honored for your service to HCDE. (Board President Angie Chesnut shown during Board Appreciation 2014)

HCDE BOARD

BOARD PRESIDENT

POSITION 2, PRECINCT 4
Angie Chesnut

BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

POSITION 3, AT LARGE
Diane Trautman

Erica Lee Carter

Position 6, Precinct 1

Howard Jefferson

Position 7, At Large

Debra Kerner

Position 5, At Large

Marvin W. Morris

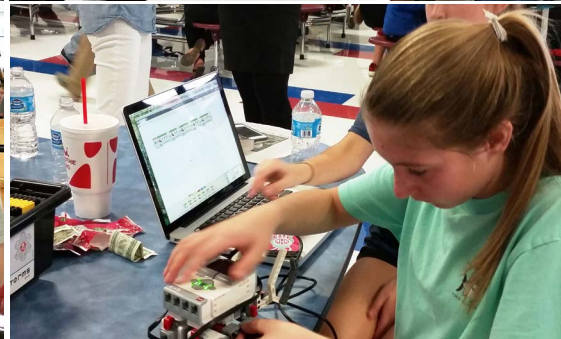
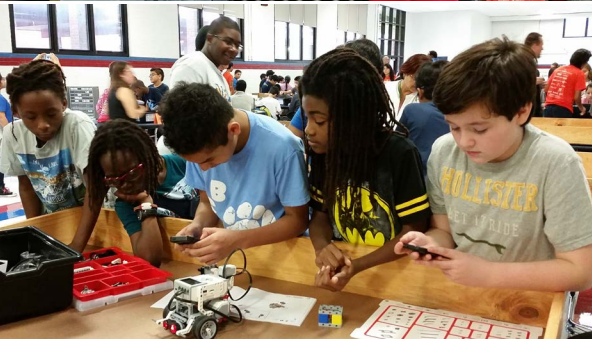
Position 1, Precinct 2

Kay Smith

Position 4, Precinct 3

TRUSTEES ON THE MOVE!

SCENES FROM SATURDAY'S 2014 ECOBOT BUILD-IT



Trustee Erica Lee Carter with Ellie Knolle, HISD Ecobot Leader, at Ecobot Build It Day, Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan

Upcoming Board Events:

Reception for Outgoing Trustees

Tuesday, December 16, 2014
12:00 Noon
4th Floor

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2014
1:00 P.M.
4th Floor

We thank **TRUSTEE DEBRA KERNER** and **TRUSTEE HOWARD JEFFERSON** for their undying support of HCDE!

