

# *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...*

I trust that each of you remained safe and dry during this week's weather event. As a result of the storms related to Tropical Storm Bill, the Department was closed on Tuesday. We resumed our Summer Flex Schedule on Wednesday.

Also, on that note, please be reminded that our rescheduled June Board Meeting will take place on next Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

Although summer is underway, our CASE summer programs are running full speed with activities in operation across the city. One initiative that will be taking place later this month, and into next month, is the CASE College Tour project. CASE staff will be accompanying youth to Texas A&M Galveston, University of Houston, and Texas Southern University. These visits give the youth a snapshot of college life and should inspire them to fulfill goals of higher education.

We continue to provide support to our 25 Harris County School districts over the summer months, and our various divisions are in discussions with them regarding meeting their anticipated needs for the 2015-16 academic year. I am continuing my meetings with area superintendents as well.

I am pleased to report that nine Harris County teens from Klein, Pasadena, Aldine, and St. John's School had the unique opportunity to travel to New York City's Carnegie Hall to gain national Scholastic Art & Writing medals. As the regional coordinator of Scholastic Art & Writing, HCDE played a major role in the coordination of those festivities with area school district and private school faculty members. HCDE was well-represented in New York City for this annual event. We are proud of area Harris County students for their major achievements in the art and writing community.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at our Board Meeting on Tuesday. Have a great weekend and I hope you enjoy this 25th issue of **The Connector**.

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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## CASE for Kids to Attend Out-of-School Time Initiatives Conference

Members of the CASE for Kids staff will attend the Out-of-School-Time Initiatives Conference, or OSTI-CON, June 23-25 in Dallas. The annual event gathers the nations' leading out-of-school-time and expanded learning professionals for workshop sessions designed to be applicable to any youth program and for any state. As the conference is generously underwritten by the Texas Education Agency, some strands are designated for the Texas ACE Program.

CASE for Kids' Family Engagement Specialist Claudia Magallan will present a workshop entitled *Zoom in on Engagement: Meeting the Need of Individual Families* at the conference. Her workshop will teach participants how to zoom into the needs of families, schools, and the community to implement empowering programming and long-term engagement.

## CASE for Kids Partners to Host College Tours for Texas ACE-21st Century Sites

CASE for Kids partnered with the Educational Opportunity Centers Program at Texas Southern University to render college informative workshops with the purpose of expanding services and creating a college-bound culture. The tour was designed to target students enrolled in CASE for Kids Texas ACE-21st Century programs that will be first or second generation college students, along with their parents, to participate in college tours for the 2015 summer. Yes Prep West, Sharpstown International and Galena Park HS are the respective campuses participating in the tours. This opportunity will allow students to have real insight and receive a firsthand view of Houston's local universities.



College Tour Dates:

- June 30, 2015 at 10 a.m. - Yes Prep @ Texas A&M- Galveston
- July 2, 2015 at 9 a.m. - SIS, Galena Park @ University of Houston
- July 8, 2015 at 10 a.m. - SIS, Galena Park @ Texas Southern

## Parents, Students Take Etiquette Classes at Sheldon ISD CASE for Kids Sites

Students and parents enrolled at Texas ACE-21st Century programs at Carroll, Garrett, and Sheldon Elementary Schools in Sheldon ISD participated in an etiquette class. Students and parents attended a two-hour workshop on etiquette last week and on June 15 they had their sit down lunch where they put their new knowledge into practice. CASE for Kids contracted with afterschool provider Virtuous Star Inc. (<http://www.youarevstar.org>) to lead the classes.



## ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING by training the trainer

### Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

- 06.15 | Online Instructor's Training - Part I
- 06.15 | Test Prep Series for TExES Generalist EC-6 Exam (#191) - SCIENCE Sessions ONLY
- 06.15 | Facilitative Leadership Institute
- 06.17 | The Quest for Grants Training Series Webinar - Team Approach to Proposal Writing
- 06.17 | Nurtured Heart Approach
- 06.18 | Rocks from Space and Engineering - Early Solar System Clues about Earth
- 06.18 | HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Meeting
- 06.18 | Test Prep Series for TExES Generalist EC-6 Exam (#191) - MATH Sessions ONLY

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## 9 Harris County Teens from Klein, Pasadena, Aldine, St. John's School Travel to New York City's Carnegie Hall to Gain National Scholastic Art & Writing Medals



Some of the best teen writers and artists from Harris County traveled to New York City's Carnegie Hall in June to be honored with Scholastic Art & Writing Silver and Gold Medals. In all, 39 Harris County teen writers and artists earned recognition as national Scholastic Art & Writing medalists. Nine made their way to New York City with four teachers to earn

their awards. The Awards are sponsored regionally by Harris County Department of Education.

View a You Tube video from the June 11th evening at Carnegie Hall, including onstage recognition of national art portfolio medalist Vanessa Sosa of Pasadena Independent School District's Sam Rayburn High School: <https://youtu.be/OLqyuHBrG-U>.



"For over 90 years, Scholastic Art & Writing Awards has recognized the amazing talent of teen artists and writings," said Harris County Department of Education Scholastic Art & Writing coordinator Melba Kent. "With over 300,000 entries, we are HCDE proud of our Harris County medalists."

Noted past recipients and alumni include Andy Warhol, Alan Arkin, Joyce Carol Oates, Ken Burns, Lena Dunham, Zac Posen, and Sylvia Plath.

"What the Awards do is to give students that boost in confidence in their abilities in art and writing and ultimately their futures," said Kent. "What our teens say is that they see limitless possibilities for their futures after being recognized in New York City."



Medals were awarded to students and their teachers from Aldine, Cypress-Fairbanks, Deer Park, Houston, Huffman, Katy, Klein, Spring Branch, Tomball, The Village School, and St. John's School.



Students traveling to New York City were Pasadena ISD students Vanessa Sosa and Denise Molina along with teacher Victor Raygoza and Daniel Reyna, Sam Rayburn High; and Linda Dixon and Michelle Nguyen of Bondy Intermediate along with teacher Tara Thompson. Klein ISD students were Theiija Balasubramanian of Doerre Intermediate, Sanah Jivani of Klein Collins High School; and Julianna Teoh, Klein Oak High School. St. John's School student was Yuming Ren; and Aldine ISD student was Jose Gutierrez along with teacher Marilyn Venne.

## Nurtured Heart Approach Provides Teachers with Training to Motivate Students

Teachers gathered at HCDE for the Nurtured Heart Approach



workshop, a social-emotional curriculum to motivate students academically and pro-socially. The research-based workshop was delivered by two school counselors who created the system in 1999 and hosted by Special Education Curriculum Director Debra Anderson.



# BOARD CONNECTION

## MOTTO

HCDE...Always Educating

## MISSION STATEMENT

Harris County Department of Education supports Harris County by enriching educational opportunities and providing value through services.

## GOALS

### GOAL 1:

Impact education by responding to the evolving needs of Harris County

### GOAL 2:

Deliver value to Harris County by utilizing resources in an ethical, transparent, and fiscally responsible manner

### GOAL 3:

Advocate for all learners by using innovative methods to maximize students' potential.

### GOAL 4:

Provide cost-savings to school districts by leveraging tax dollars

### GOAL 5:

Recruit and maintain a high-quality professional staff

*Adopted by the HCDE Board of Trustees at its April 21, 2015 meeting.*

## HCDE BOARD

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## Upcoming Board Events:

**Rescheduled  
June Board Meeting  
Tuesday,  
June 23, 2015  
1:00 p.m.**

