

The CONNECTOR

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



WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2016

VOLUME 3/ISSUE 3



In this issue...

- 2 2016 District Affiliate Leadership Conference Kicks Off Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards
- 3 Humanities Texas Mini-Grant Awarded to Teaching and Learning Center
- 5 Humble Head Start Center Featured in United Methodist Church General Board Video

FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

It's now official: All Harris County and area school districts are back in session. Last week, we successfully completed the first week of school and today marks the end of HCDE's second full week of normal operations in accordance with the start of our academic year. It is also important to note that Wednesday, August 31, marked the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year and as of yesterday, we began the start of fiscal year 2016-2017.

I began the week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team. Members of the team reported activities and operations that are consistent with a successful start of the year. Also, this week, I continued making my ongoing visits with the superintendents of Harris County. In my continued efforts to increase HCDE's visibility and to garner support of the Department, I met with the leaders of two of the larger districts within Harris County. Both meetings went well and I look forward to continuing to not only increase HCDE's visibility through this medium, but also shore up support for the entity that helps the districts and students of Harris County achieve.

Also this week, the Audit Committee met, as well as the Public Facilities Corporation (PFC) of HCDE. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend these important meetings. The work of both of these groups is essential to the services we provide the citizens of Harris County. Thank you for your support!

In the area of teaching and learning, this week we focused on English/Language Arts by hosting two workshops: *Something Different for High School ELA: Creating a Successful Support Class for End of Course I and II Retesters* as well as *All in One Place! Establishing and Maintaining ELA Portfolios in Your District*. Our Educator Certification and Professional Advancement division hosted another Career Choice Recruitment Seminar, and we also held Grants for Afterschool: How to Get and Sustain More Funding, and as a resource to public entities, we hosted two Public Funds Investment Training workshops. Finally, we held our regular Attendance Officers' Share Session, as well as a Leadership Group Meeting for Bilingual and ESL educators. HCDE continues to serve Harris County. We are committed to continue to help students achieve by offering value, opportunity, and service to our client school districts and to the community-at-large.

Please be reminded that this weekend is the Labor Day Weekend and HCDE will be closed in observation of the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 5. We will resume normal business hours Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

In closing, thank you for your continued service to HCDE. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have an enjoyable holiday weekend.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

2016 District Affiliate Leadership Conference Kicks Off Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards



Sixty art and writing program directors and teachers met to kick off the 2016-2017 regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards through the 2016 District Affiliate Leadership Conference held

September 30 and hosted by HCDE at the Federal Reserve Bank Houston Branch on Allen Parkway.



The daylong conference was launched to present guidelines for entering student art and writing entries and to allow the fine arts educators to network and share goals ideas for promoting and building the program. Participants included public, charter and private school representatives. Lunch was provided by the Gulf Coast



Educators Federal Credit Union.

As regional sponsors, HCDE's Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is administered by the Teaching and Learning Center with director Andrea Segraves as coordinator. This year Segraves expects a continued rise in entries as the

Scholastic national has allowed unrestricted numbers of entries. Last year over 7,000 art and writing entries were judged by several hundred professional art and writing volunteers.

Segraves announced that Houston will be included in the national traveling Scholastic Art & Writing Show which is showcased at museums throughout the country. The Museum



of Fine Arts will host the exhibit from November 1-January 2, with a reception to be announced soon. Work from two Harris County artists will be showcased in the show.

In addition, about a half-dozen student from Harris County have been selected to showcase their art and writing in Washington, D.C. beginning September 16. "The Art. Write.Now.DC" exhibit spans three locations: The U.S. Department of Education, The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

"We are very proud of our Harris County students and the teachers that encourage their creativity," said Segraves.

Head Start Staff Train, Gain CPR/First Aid/AED Training for Infants, Children, Adults

Communication and Client Engagement published volume No. 6 of the Hub this month, our HCDE internal newspaper. The Hub, with the motto "we're better together," is delivered both electronically and through print. Included in this month's Hub are photos from Annual Staff:

<http://hcdetx.smugmug.com/Administration/2016-Annual-Staff-Meeting> (password hcde1889).

View the Hub: http://hcde-texas.org/media/4226/thehub_issue-6_aug25-2.pdf.



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Grant Expansion Sought for HCDE Early Head Start



The Center for Grants Development and HCDE Head Start submitted an Early Head Start Expansion and Child Care Partnership Project grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to serve 32 children at the La Porte and Tidwell Head Start sites and 28 children through collaborations with two to five local child care providers. The requested funding totals \$8 million for five years of service to families. Center for Grants employees Sharvon Pipkins and Joyce Akins worked with Head Start Senior Director Venetia Peacock on the grant project.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

AUGUST 30, 2016

Public Funds Investment Training - School

Something Different for High School ELA: Creating a Successful Support Class for EOC I & II Retesters

AUGUST 31, 2016

Public Funds Investment Training - School

Educator Certification and Professional Advancement (ECPA) Career Choice Recruitment Seminar

All in One Place! Establishing and Maintaining ELA Portfolios in Your District

Grants for Afterschool: How to Get and Sustain More Funding

AUGUST 31, 2016

Public Funds Investment Training - School

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Attendance Officers' Share Session

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

Bilingual/ESL Leadership Group Meeting

Humanities Texas Mini-Grant Awarded to Teaching and Learning Center



Teachers will benefit from cross-curricular workshops spanning English language arts and social studies through a \$1,500 grant awarded from Humanities Texas to the Teaching and Learning Center. Center

for Grants Development's Dr. Vida L. Avery and ELA and social studies director Kelly Tummy collaborated on the grant. Sessions will be delivered by University of Houston Clear Lake professor Dr. Jeffrey Lash and Kelly Tummy. Humanities Texas is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For information about classes, email: ktummy@hcde-texas.org.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

200 Attend Adult Education Returning Staff Orientation



Two-hundred HCDE Adult Education part-time teachers gathered for a back-to-school information session held in the Conference Center August 20. Director Eduardo Honold shared a Leadership Matters TED Ed video with staff and encouraged teachers to share “lollipop moments.” Lollipop Moments are personal experiences which show the

value of teachers and the differences they make on their students.

Within the Adult Education division, 12 teachers were recognized for years of service to HCDE, including two 25-year employees, one 20-year employee, seven 15-year employees, four 10-year employees and two five-year employees. Teachers also gained required training from the state’s Workforce Solutions, delivered locally by the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Divisions Meet to Discuss Collaboration with Houston:revision to Address At-Risk Youth



A new partnership could be on the horizon with nonprofit **Houston:revision**, an organization which connects

“kids on the edge” with mentors, positive peers and life-changing resources. The Research and Evaluation Institute’s (REI) Dr. Jeannette Truxillo and Dr. Andres Garcia met with CEO Charles Rotramel August 24 to discuss future collaborations between several HCDE divisions and a research study conducted by REI to analyze results. Also in attendance were Assistant Superintendent

Jonathan Parker and directors and staff from several HCDE divisions.

Houston:revision works to reintegrate gang-affected and adjudicated youth throughout Harris County into their schools, neighborhoods and families.

The meeting focused on three projects: professional development sponsored by the Teaching and Learning Center and the Center for Safe and Secure Schools, piloting the program at one of the Highpoint schools with possible inclusion in afterschool services with CASE for Kids, and sharing research studies and data collection about the program with Research and Evaluation.

Value

BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Business Connections FW: Co-opportunities | New contracts for JOC-IDIQ

Choice Partners Cooperative released its new Co-opportunities issue. Visit the following URL to see the new issue:

http://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email_web_version.cfm?recipient_id=2429968618&message_id=13411846&user_id=HCDOE&group_id=2514557&jobid=35019640

Making the right connections to save time and money!

Co-opportunities

You are receiving this because you are a member of Choice Partners cooperative.

Aug. 30, 2016

New contracts for construction, promo items and travel awarded

Members are busy with the flurry of activities surrounding the start of another school year. Just as the government makes it easier to spend your personal funds during the Back to School tax-free weekend, Choice Partners makes it easy to find contracts you need. **Contracts for construction (JOC-IDIQ), promotional items and educational travel services were awarded** at the August 2016 board meeting of Harris County Department of Education and are accessible through HCDE Choice Partners cooperative.

Staff Directory

Jeff Drury
Director

Joann Nichols
Assistant Director

Trisha Jensen
Assistant Director

Greg Lookabaugh
Sr. Mgr. of Facilities Planning

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Humble Head Start Center Featured in United Methodist Church General Board Video



A videographer with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church visited the Humble Head Start Center this week to highlight the partnership between Head Start and the Journey of Faith United Methodist Church. The video will be shown nationwide leading up to the 2017 Human Relations Offering Day in January. The Human Relations offerings are used each year to support community development programs around the United States.

The video features an interview with Humble Head Start Center Manager Pamela Butler and Journey of Faith Pastor Vincent Harris and highlights the importance of the Head Start program and community support.



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT: Aldine ISD



Aldine ISD hosts a series of financial aid/college application sessions this fall at multiple campuses around Aldine ISD for students and their families. Learn more at

Details:
<http://goo.gl/pMwjqh>.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Community Relations

In keeping with the Board's expectations of me to

- Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, affecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and the community; and to
- Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of the students and the community in a coordinated way



The Humble Head Start Center is being featured in a national video associated with the General

Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (UMC).

The video highlights the partnership

between HCDE's

Head Start Center and the Journey of Faith United Methodist Church.

Leading up to the 2017 Human Relations Offering Day in January, our Head Start Center will receive nationwide visibility. The purpose of this endeavor of the General Board of Global Ministries for the UMC is to support community development programs across the United States.



Through this endeavor, I am forwarding the Board's expectations of me to communicate the needs and accomplishments of the Department in a variety of formats: through written reports, communication with the media, community, school districts, political arenas, and public meetings.

HCDE BOARD

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Marvin W. Morris

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Diane Trautman

Position 3, At Large

Michael Wolfe

Position 5, At Large

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS:

September Board Meeting

September 20, 2016

1:00 p.m.

Room 400

